

# Prime Minister appeals to the nation for support in 'winter of dislocation'

Launching what may be a pre-election session of Parliament yesterday, Mr Callaghan appealed to "every man and woman in the land" to observe pay restraint. In what was seen as a

reference to the miners, he promised in the debate on the Queen's Speech not to let any group of workers secure advantages through their strength. In the Queen's Speech, which was

cut from television and radio because of action by BBC staff, separate Bills on Scottish and Welsh devolution and on direct elections to the European Assembly were announced.

## Pledge not to allow pay gains 'secured through strength'

Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Mr Callaghan, launching perhaps his pre-election session of Parliament yesterday, appealed to "every man and woman in the land" for crucial support in a pay restraint through what looked like being a difficult winter.

In an unmistakable reference to the miners, the Prime Minister promised in return not to let any group of workers secure advantages through their strength which others are ready and willing to forgo.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, later called on the Government and unions to "be more vocal in their condemnation" of such groups as the power workers. Report, page 4.

Mr Callaghan's call to action through a winter of "inconvenience and dislocation" was the reality of government business outside Parliament. As for new legislation, the proposed programme, as outlined earlier by the Queen in her speech from the Throne at the ceremonial state opening, strikes a note almost of detachment from the picture of a nation weathering the storm of recession.

It is concentrated in two Bills, to be published today, for devolution for Wales and Scotland (in what order is not yet known); and in the Bill, to be published on November 10, for direct elections to the European Assembly.

The other eye-catcher (some might talk of votes) is a Bill to help first-time home buyers with a deferred interest 500 loan, plus a possible bonus towards a mortgage deposit.

There are also twenty other possible Bills in the Queen's speech, with Mr Callaghan offering more. But it all depends on time available. Studies of past experience in time of recession are no guide to the present.

One gift offered to the Post Office workers is a possible Bill to give them the right to strike, but Liberals, describing it as "regrettable", will ensure that it remains government without thinking.

Liberal support, of course, remains the core of Mr Callaghan's survival. The Prime Minister several times teased his colleagues and the House with the notion that the election could be next autumn.

To backbenchers at a private meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party complaining of omissions in the Queen's speech, the Prime Minister replied that they needed to add an overspill next autumn.

"There may be other things in September and October," he said. There was less innuendo from Mr Callaghan in the

The Government will make second attempt to get devolution measures on the statute book, this time with separate Bills for Scotland and Wales. Other measures announced in the Queen's speech were:

■ Legislation providing for the direct election of United Kingdom members of the European Assembly will be reintroduced.

■ The Government will bring in a Bill to give loan assistance to first-time home buyers. It would match savings with bonuses and interest-free loans.

■ A levy of about 80p a passenger will be introduced at 28 British airports to increase safeguards against hijackers.

■ Consideration of more measures to help small firms. Ministers will discuss the encouragement of profit-sharing through the tax system.

■ Legislation will be introduced to develop transport policy to meet economic and social needs, including transport in rural areas.

■ Bills will be tabled to review and revise inner-urban areas and to provide payments for redundant shipbuilding workers in the public sector.

■ Measures planned outside the present session include improvements in safety at sea, reorganization of broadcasting and reform of the Scottish criminal justice system.

■ Home loan plan, page 4; Parliamentary report, page 1; Daily page 14; leading article, page 15; Business News, page 20.

House. But in the debate on the Address he again teased MPs, suggesting there was enough work for another full session beginning next autumn.

"But perhaps we had better wait and see what develops," he said. But then Mr Callaghan, in his one-on-one record of the word, declared: "I see no need for an election." With Liberal support the Government had a working majority.

In passing he appealed to the nationalists not to complicate the passage of the devolution Bill.

Mr Callaghan's arithmetic foresees a basic Lib-Lab majority of 21, assuming the supporting votes of two independent Scottish Labour members and the Government's two Irish supporters.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, obliged Mr Callaghan with a statement of support for the Government's programme. The Liberals were given generous credit in the House by the Prime Minister for having helped to establish Britain's "stability".

But Mr Steel said at a London rally last night that it must be the first time a Labour government programme had not contained a single proposal to extend nationalisation.

He awarded the Government nine out of ten for including all but one of the 10 Liberal policy desires as stated in last July's renewal of the agreement with Labour.

Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, opening the Commons debate on the Address, complained that the Queen had been given a speech smacking of "we've been here before". They were the same Bills, with strikes, mini-budgets, candles and power cuts into the bargain.

The Government's only hope was in North Sea oil. But, despite Mr Callaghan's professions about not wasting it, the feared oil resources would be used only as "a rescue operation".

The Prime Minister was not put off by Mrs Thatcher. He pressed somewhat nonchalantly for a while, with a bit of knockabout humour, well on top of his material. But then Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative MP for Waltham Forest, Chingford, got through his thick skin.

Mr Callaghan uncertainly gave way, and Mr Tebbit taunted him to repeat whether he really meant that a man on £50 a week was as well off now as in 1974. "Yes," the Prime Minister answered, to shouts of disbelief, "in terms of tax deduction."

Then, somewhat uncharacteristically, the Prime Minister was pulled off course.

He suggested leaving the argument to another day, then, taunted, impulsively plunged into it anyway. He insisted that today Mr Average Earnings with a week (married with two children) was paying taxation and national insurance in the same real terms today as in 1973-74, if child benefits and family allowances were taken into account.

Tory backbenchers howled for him to continue and talk of purchasing power. But the Prime Minister retreated, rowling: "I am going to resist it; we are going to destroy the party position on this."

There was more discomfiture as Mr Callaghan came to his warnings on the present scene. He wanted no confrontation. We are not fighting against anyone, not trying to teach anyone a lesson, no group of workers, no trade union.

Mr Callaghan's election talk was seen at Westminster as intended to keep his own troops docile. He appealed at the PLP meeting for unity. "The Labour Party cannot win an election with the Tribune Group alone, or with the moderate elements in the party alone."

These remarks are pregnant for the fate of the Wales and Scotland Bills.

Continued on page 4, col 2



The Queen wearing spectacles during her speech from the Throne yesterday.

## Callaghan welcome for TV and radio blackout of Speech

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mr Callaghan yesterday warmly welcomed President Brezhnev's offer to suspend the Soviet Union's peaceful nuclear explosion programme as "a most significant development in Soviet policy".

The Prime Minister, speaking in the Commons at the start of the debate on the Queen's Speech, told MPs that this initiative should be taken as a signal to the West that the Soviet leadership was in earnest about the policy of détente.

He reminded the House that President Brezhnev, President Carter and himself had agreed that negotiations should begin

last July to reach a comprehensive test ban treaty. The achievement of a total ban on all nuclear explosions was being held up because the Soviet Union genuinely advanced the view that peaceful explosions could be defined separately from other nuclear explosions.

But the Prime Minister was less than warm in his reception of Mrs Thatcher's bitter attack on the state of British defences. The Tory leader claimed that Britain's prestige could not be lower than it was in NATO at the present time.

Mr Callaghan snapped back that if every other NATO country spent the same proportion of their gross national product on defence as did Britain, NATO's troubles would have been over long ago.

Radio and television coverage of the Queen's Speech at the state opening of Parliament yesterday was taken off the air as a result of action by members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs in pursuit of a pay claim.

Neither independent television nor commercial radio could carry any transmissions from inside Parliament because both had arranged to take "feeds" from the BBC.

Last night the BBC nationwide programme was blacked out and a film was shown instead. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of London said that the programme was reduced to five minutes without film reports and was followed by 20 minutes of inter-include films.

## Shares again lose heavily as pound plunges

By Caroline Atkinson

Sterling plunged to \$1.81 yesterday—235 cents lower—in hectic trading on the foreign exchange market. At one point it was five cents down on the day.

Gifts fell in sympathy, closing £2 down at the long end after an initial drop of £2.75. Shares fell for the ninth consecutive day, with a drop of 6.2 in the FT index to close at 478.5.

Sterling made a slight recovery just before the close to

finish with an effective rate index of 63.4. Wednesday's close on the effective-trading weighted index was 64.4.

The Bank of England seems to have stayed well clear of the market until the rate had plummeted to \$1.7875. Some slight support at that level was then detected by some dealers.

In New York the pound lost 31 cents to close at \$1.81. It was a revival of industrial unrest in Britain—with the miners refusing to accept a productivity deal—and wide-

spread power cuts have led many overseas investors to think twice about holding pounds.

The market was shaken by the sudden plunge in the pound's exchange rate, and as no floor was provided by the Bank, at least at first, there was a snowballing effect.

Sterling began its nosedive in the morning when the dollar began to pick up. Herr Haus Apel, the German Finance Minister, has said that the

American currency was undervalued at its present rate, and the market immediately reacted by buying dollars.

Mr Fred Bergsten, United States Assistant Treasury Secretary, later repeated Herr Apel's comments. The dollar closed very slightly down on the day at DM2.246, and 247.75 yen.

Large selling orders for pounds first came from Switzerland and Germany. When the

## Kremlin bars Spanish party leader's speech

Moscow, Nov 3.—Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist Party leader, said tonight that he had been barred from speaking at a Kremlin rally today, apparently because Soviet officials considered his planned address too militantly Eurocommunist.

Señor Carrillo, one of the arch-exponents of the moderate brand of communism espoused by several Western parties, said he had been told originally that he could make a speech to the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

But after he handed in a copy of his text for translation soon after arriving in Moscow last night, he was told he would not be called to the rostrum, he said, although representatives of many less influential parties did speak to the two-day rally.

"Not only was I not given the opportunity to speak but also I have not been given any reason for this," he told reporters. "But I suppose you can imagine why it was."

The affair appeared likely to exacerbate the already strained relations between the Spanish and Soviet parties. Another member of Señor Carrillo's

delegation—the veteran poet Manuel Albuert—expressed his anger by calling off a reading of his works in Moscow today.

The incident came after President Leonid Brezhnev yesterday delivered the most authoritative, if implicit, critique of Eurocommunism ever pronounced by a Kremlin leader from a public tribune.

While Señor Carrillo sat in the back row of the praesidium of honour at the meeting today, thunderous receptions were given to pro-Moscow party leaders, who were in effect denouncing the politics he espoused.

Speaking to reporters afterwards Señor Carrillo said his speech had been very similar to one delivered yesterday by the Italian party leader, Signor Enrico Berlinguer, another Eurocommunist.

It was also agreed that British were given a cool reception for addresses expounding their strongly distinctive views of what a socialist society should be and their insistence on a multi-party system.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 15

## Mr Benn to seek Cabinet approval for £2-a-week power dispute peace formula

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is to put to his Cabinet colleagues proposals for a solution of the power workers' unofficial action agreed yesterday by the unions and the Electricity Council.

The peace formula gives power station workers rises of up to £2 a week to recompense them for increased travelling costs incurred by the shift of generating stations from towns to rural sites. An employers' representative said last night: "We are hopeful they will call off the action that is hitting the public and many of their own colleagues."

Government approval is needed before the travel allowances can be paid. But if the payments are found to be consistent with income policy they may be in the next wage envelope.

Other issues behind the action that has caused widespread power cuts and voltage reductions shift pay allowances and concessionary fuel allowances on the lines of miners' free coal—were not touched on at yesterday's joint talks.

Union leaders agree that they form part of the basic terms and conditions of the country's 96,000 power workers, and

under the terms of the TUC's 12-month rule the men are not due for another general increase until mid-March, 1978.

The response of the unofficial dispute leaders was not encouraging. One, Mr James Bonney, from the North-west, said the agreement on travel allowances "does not change our position one iota."

But Mr Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union and chairman of the power unions' side, said: "I should have thought that reasonable people would understand the situation. The men should realize now that we have done all that reasonable people could expect us to."

"Their increasing claims are not helping the matter one bit. It is a battle that cannot be won at the present time. There are no two ways about that."

Mr William Prior, industrial relations official of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union and chairman of the power unions' side, said: "I should have thought that reasonable people would understand the situation. The men should realize now that we have done all that reasonable people could expect us to."

"Their increasing claims are not helping the matter one bit. It is a battle that cannot be won at the present time. There are no two ways about that."

due to meet again until early December, and the union leaders are not in direct contact with the shop stewards leading the dispute.

In detail, the travel allowance gives men who live three to six miles away from their place of work 80p more; those between six and ten miles away, £1.30; and those over ten miles, £2.

The Electricity Council justifies the increases on the ground that "planning policy" has in recent years moved power stations from centres of population to rural areas. At the same time public transport has declined, and the requirement on the industry to provide a 24-hour service with a diminished labour force ought to permit extra pay for travelling.

Kidney machine danger: Patients on home kidney machines in south-west England are facing a terrible situation because of the power cuts. Bristol hospital officials said yesterday (The Press Association reports) if they could not make up for hours lost during the cuts they would "end up being dead."

More than 70 patients on home dialysis units have been advised to use their machines from midnight to at least 6 am.

## BR passenger fares to be investigated

By a Staff Reporter

The Price Commission is to investigate today that their hated passbooks, which prescribe where they may live and work, are to be scrapped. A statement issued after a meeting in Pretoria between Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, and black homeland leaders said it had been agreed the passbooks should be replaced by travel identity documents next year.

The new documents will be issued by the Bantustan governments which, in effect, means that the system of separate development will be reinforced.

None the less, it is likely to come under fierce attack from ultra-conservative whites, particularly the Herstigte Nasionale Party, which will see the move as a further erosion of white domination.

Chief Gatsba Buthelesi, the leader of four million Zulus, refused to attend the talks in Pretoria. He had described previous discussions with Mr Vorster on the issue as "a farce".

It is not yet clear whether police will be empowered to arrest any African unable to produce his new identity document on demand. At present thousands of Africans are

jailed every year for the technical offence of not having their passes on them.

Dr Cedric Phahudi, the Lebowa homeland leader, said the ending of the passbook system meant the removal of one of the major "irritations" of the apartheid system.

It was also agreed that Africans employed in urban areas may now have their families living with them. It is not known, however, if this applies to the thousands of African women domestics who work and live as single women in white suburbs.

Tories "would give no respite to S Africa", page 9

## Catholics change rules for mixed marriages

New rules on marriages between Roman Catholics and members of other churches have been issued. The Catholic partner will still sign a document expressing willingness to try to ensure that children of the marriage are raised as Catholics but it will be an undertaking rather than a promise and should not be

pressed to the point of jeopardizing the marriage. The regulations, drawn up by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales, are designed to meet objections from non-Roman Catholic churches and to tailor general Catholic rules to local conditions.

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## France-Quebec link strengthened

President Giscard d'Estaing announced in Paris that France and Quebec are to hold regular meetings at prime ministerial level to strengthen their links.

In a warm speech during a luncheon in honour of Mr René Lévesque, the visiting Premier of Quebec, the President said that France would not interfere in the Canadian political debate, but Quebec could count on French support "all along the route you decide to follow".

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## Parliament and the unions

If Parliament acted against "the very existence" of trade unions they might have to challenge the right of Parliament to do that, Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said in an elaboration of a lecture delivered in Sheffield. He said he was talking of "exceptional circumstances" in which governments might ban union activity. He was not talking of what might happen under a future Conservative government, when speaking of those exceptional circumstances.

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## UN appeal to curb hijacking

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved an appeal to all the nations of the world to cooperate in ending hijackings. It adopted a resolution asking for a global effort to increase participation in three existing anti-hijacking treaties and improve airport and airline security.

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## Students' union cash review

The Government is to review the way in which students' unions are financed. This year more than £2m is payable in fees at six universities, most of it from central government funds. The National Union of Students proposes in a strategy document a government guaranteed minimum fee of £15 for full-time further and higher education students and £3 for part-time students. The total cost to the state of £10m.

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## Demonstration at Heath rally

Two National Front members interrupted a Conservative rally at Lambeth Town Hall, London, last night and shouted "traitor" at the guest speaker, Mr Edward Heath. About fifty members of the Front demonstrated outside the meeting.

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## Overwhelmed: The Broom

village of Haworth is in danger of losing its character because of the 700,000 visitors who crowd in every year.

Firemen's pay: Militant firemen may demand a strike in support of a 30 per cent pay claim although the leaders recommend 10 per cent.

EEC: It is proposed to give all citizens of the Nine the same rights when signing credit agreements as in Britain.

Western Sahara: The Libyan Prime Minister flew to Paris for talks on the French hostages held by the Polisario Front.

Jiddah and the Western Province: A 16-page Special Report, the second of a series on key regions of Saudi Arabia.

Leader page 15  
Letters: On the power cuts, from Professor G. P. C. Butler and others; Charges against Mr Helms, from Lord George-Brown; Housings, from Lord George-Brown; Lord Balfour's paintings, from Lord Balfour.

Leading articles: The Queen's Speech; Moscow and Eurocommunism; Handouts for home buyers.

Features, pages 14 and 17: David Lane looks at racial discrimination and how it affects work; Dennis Farr on saving the Bellin for Britain; Andrew Tarnowski on the Argentine navy.

Arts, page 13: David Robinson on the London Film Festival; new films in London; William Maon on Eurymache (Coliseum); Irving Wardle on Filumena (Lyric Theatre); Stanley Sadleir on *Acis and Galatea* (Sadler's Wells).

Sport, pages 11 and 12: Football: How clubs are coping with power cuts; Norman Fox reviews the European scene; Tennis: Victories for Christine Evert and Billie Jean King at Palm Springs; Racing: Prospects for Cheltenham and Doncaster meetings; Motor racing: Alan Jones joins Williams team.

Business News, pages 18-24: Stock markets: Lites followed sterling down and the FT index closed another 6.2 off at 478.8. Financial Editor: Parameters for sterling: Barclays chooses a clearer for its merchant bank; Hoover meets currency pressure; IMF offer subsidised business features; Kenneth Owen on an expanding role for the laser beam.

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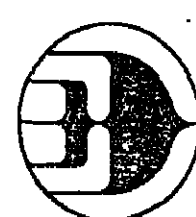
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HOME NEWS

# Burden of running home loan cash boost scheme will fall on the building societies

By Margaret Stone

Help for first-time buyers is one of the centrepieces of the Government's intended programme of social legislation. The Bill proposing a cash boost and loan scheme for new borrowers is the outcome of the Housing Finance Review, which took a long time to reach publication at the end of June.

The Housing Finance Green Paper produced little in the way of resolving the country's housing difficulties. The most radical suggestions were the two forms of assistance it recommended for first-time buyers.

One was that the Government would pay a bonus, broadly equivalent to tax at the basic rate on the aggregate of interest on up to £1,000. The second proposal was that loans of £500 would be made to first-time buyers who had saved £500 before buying their homes. The loan would be interest-free for the first five years.

The proposals were circulated between the three main bodies that would be involved in the operation of the schemes (the local authorities, clearing banks and building societies) for them to reach a conclusion by November 1. In the event the issues have proved so complicated that the deadline for completing arrangements has

been put back to the beginning of December.

The discussions between the three groups and the Department of the Environment have not been making much progress for two reasons. The original proposals were seen as being administratively cumbersome and the benefits too unrealistic to make the effort worthwhile.

However, after protracted discussions, some of the difficulties are being removed. It seems almost certain that the bonus for people who save at least £1,000 will be increased and that the time interval for savings to be held before a matching government loan can be acquired is likely to be shortened.

Those two improvements, it is felt, will make the scheme more attractive for the building societies to operate, and for young couples. The main administrative burden of the proposals will probably fall on the building societies.

The administrative hurdles have still not been totally overcome. Nor least of the difficulties is how to measure how long people have been saving. It seems likely that the building societies will be the channel through which the Government will make the loans available to borrowers rather than paying it direct to the borrowers.

That is the kind of technical point that makes all the difference between running the scheme smoothly and efficiently and running it at much greater expense. The building societies will, after the five-year period of grace, be responsible for repaying the loan and interest to the Government.

It was calculated in July that the two proposals combined would cost between £40m and £50m.

It is difficult to predict how many young couples will take advantage of the scheme. The savings period being built into both proposals may be a commitment that some may not be able to keep.

If house prices begin to rise rapidly it may not be worth while to wait a couple of years to qualify for the £500 loan. However, the fact that it can be used for other expenses such as meeting legal fees or buying the mortgage will make it a welcome source of funds for many.

The Government's previous attempt to ease the lot of the first-time buyer with a low-start mortgage scheme was a dismal failure. Interest payment was deferred in the early years of the mortgage and the capital increased. It was designed during the housing boom when the ratio between incomes and house prices was nearly one to four.

# New power on doctors' registration sought

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association will press for improved methods of registration of overseas doctors to be included in the Bill to restructure the General Medical Council.

But the Bill is expected to be non-controversial and concentrate on making the GMC more representative by increasing the size of the council to 38 with a majority of elected members, on the lines of the Mersey committee report into the functions and constitution of the council, published in 1975.

The Bill is also expected to give the council powers to control the registration of doctors unfit to practice on health grounds.

The Mersey committee concluded that the GMC's responsibility should extend beyond professional conduct to include the mental or physical fitness of doctors. The committee thought it unwise to compel doctors legally to report the ill health of colleagues but thought that in certain cases it might be appropriate for the GMC to proceed against a doctor who took no action to protect the public from a sick colleague.

The committee suggested that the GMC should be established with powers to suspend a doctor's registration or impose conditional registration.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent arriving for the state opening of Parliament yesterday. Parliamentary report, page 6.

# Threat to Labour unity over Europe poll

By Michael Hatfield

The Prime Minister was given a warning last night of a "potential explosion" involving the Government and the Labour Party, over direct elections to the European Parliament, in a speech by Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party.

Mr Hayward insisted that the new Bill must ensure the conditions approved at the party conference this year, but Mr Callaghan firmly stated in the Commons yesterday that the Bill would be substantially the same as that introduced in the last session. He recognized that that was likely to give some difficulties inside the party.

According to Mr Hayward, who was speaking at Kettering, a joint meeting between the Cabinet and the party's national executive committee on November 28 will thrash out the "other Common Market problems".

The meeting, however, may well have little influence because the Bill is to be published next Thursday, and it is not expected to include all the demands made at the party conference.

As outlined by Mr Hayward last night, they are: Clause in the Bill preventing any changes in the powers of the European Assembly; the need to fight on a platform of radical change within the EEC; the desirability of holding the EEC elections on the same day as the British general election; Labour candidates should be selected before each election using normal constituency machinery, and be bound by party policy and accountable to the party.

The main disagreement will be over the timing of direct elections, for Mr Callaghan is unlikely to accept the notion of double polling on the same day.

Mr Hayward said: "If these conditions are not met we face confusion and division on an unprecedented scale, and the splits would not easily be healed. We have got some hard and fast things to do on the question of how to implement these vital conditions in a way that will maintain our unity."

# Steel faith in Labour pay stand

By Our Political Editor

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last night that for the moment he would not intend to doubt the Government's determination to stand firm against policy-breaking wage claims. The prevention of a wages explosion remained the crucial card to be played by the Government in the continuing of the Liberal-Labour agreement. The question was whether public opinion would make itself felt against the small minority who wish to press their selfish demands.

Mr Steel, speaking at a party rally in London, said he expected the Government and the unions to be more vocal in condemning the power workers' strike. "There have been signs of similar irresponsibility among aviation workers, car workers and today television employees, and no doubt there will be among a minority of the public. The public mood is, I believe, one that will back the Government in taking a firm stand."

He described the parliamentary arrangement as "an agreement of influence, it is not a coalition." Pointing to the recent Gallup Poll majority favouring the pact, he said: "The people of Britain can now see that there is a third and better way open to them at the next election."

"The middle ground of politics can at last assert itself. There is no need to vote Labour and be saddled with a Labour majority. There is no need to lurch to the other extreme of a Thatcher-Joseph Tory government. Nor do we need simply to sigh and dream dreams of a Liberal government."

The Liberals had signalled the end of the politics of confrontation. At the next election they would appeal for enlarged Liberal strength in the House so that the next government, Labour or Tory, has to be even more mindful of Liberal views and so govern with the backing of the majority."

# Liberals pushing for official information Bill

By George Clark

Liberal Party pressure for an official information Bill that would extend civil liberties by removing the legal ban on the disclosure of government and Cabinet documents and Whitehall's decision is to be increased.

Mr Steel and his Liberal colleagues were disappointed by the phrasing of the Prime Minister's speech, which was prefaced by the words "legislation will be introduced" or "legislation will be brought before you", the message on government whether by the regional first proposals will be brought forward for the reform of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911.

That is the formula used to introduce the White Paper, but a Bill will be produced. The Liberals believe that the arguments in favour of a relaxation of the law that

imposes criminal penalties on journalists and others who reveal "official information" are conclusive, and action is urgently needed.

Mr Steel said last night: "We shall look for an extension of civil liberties through the reform of section 2 of the 1911 Official Secrets Act on the lines recommended in the report of our Liberal colleague, Lord Franks."

The Franks committee reported as long ago as 1972, recommending drastic changes in the classification of official information. They would involve the complete redrafting of section 2 of the 1911 Act, which forbids unauthorized disclosure of government information of any kind.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, announced on November 22, 1976, that the Government had concluded that section 2 should be replaced with an official information Act on the broad lines recommended by the

Franks committee. But he indicated that the Government would be prepared to go further than Franks. Among the Government's conclusions was that a total ban on disclosure of civil liberties through the disclosure of Cabinet and Cabinet committee documents unless they fell into the limited number of protected categories. Since then there have been protracted discussions between ministers and the Civil Service about the categories of information, mostly concerned with defence and international relations, and not to much with "Budget secrets", which still need to be the subject of criminal sanctions if anyone makes a disclosure.

Mr Rees has said the category that would remain protected would be information of a defence policy and strategy, and of international relations where unauthorized disclosure would be prejudicial to British in-

terests, to relations with a foreign government, or to the safety of British citizens.

These areas have been difficult to define. Mr Callaghan has been in the chair at the ministerial meetings held to discuss the legislation, and the fact that the Government is now clearly indicating that a White Paper must precede the Bill shows how difficult classification has become.

There is an understandable anxiety among Civil Servants that the new rules governing disclosure will be drawn so vaguely that they will be at even greater risk than now of being taken to court along with the journalists and others with whom they may communicate.

Many Labour and Liberal MPs are demanding that criminal penalties should be reserved for unauthorized disclosure of official information where it involves a threat to national security or to individual property.

# Backing for low-cost transport

By Michael Baily

New support for minibuses, postbuses and other forms of low-cost community public transport will be the main feature of transport legislation in the new session, local authorities will be required to give such schemes a role in their forward transport planning, and the traffic commissioners will be required not to impede them.

A notable omission will be the controversial idea put forward in the transport White Paper in June to hand over responsibility for loss-making rail services to local authorities. It has been strongly opposed by rail management and unions as "balkanization of the railway network", and by local authorities who see themselves landed either with the cost of loss-making services or the odium of closing them.

There will be measures to put the National Freight Corporation on a sound financial footing, and to encourage the use of the rail will continue.

# Incentives for urban industries

By Our Planning Reporter

The commitment to provide further assistance to inner-urban areas may be assumed to refer to industrial incentives. The Government already has wide powers to control housing expenditure allocations and to vary the rate-support grant, and last month it announced an extension of its special aid programme to selected towns and cities.

What many urban authorities have been pleading for are powers to offer special incentives to companies to establish factories in decaying districts. The Government's response was contained in a White Paper published last June, which is likely to provide the framework for legislation.

Among its recommendations were that councils should be empowered to make loans of up to 50 per cent for land purchases, new factories and improving existing industrial premises to establish industrial improvement areas, along broadly the same lines as housing improvement areas; and in some cases to provide rent-free periods and to contribute to the cost of site preparation.

# Mr Callaghan refuses to be drawn on devolution timing

Continued from page 1

Scotland devolution and European elections Bills. There is to be a free vote on the method of electing MPs to Europe, whether by the regional first type of proportional representation or by the traditional "first past the post" system. All the other votes are to be subject to a three-line whip on the Floorment side.

Mrs Thatcher predicted that there was little chance of getting through a Bill allowing for European elections next year. Mr Callaghan noted her prediction but then made clear his belief that only if the House approved the regional list, as the Government wished, could elections come in 1978.

A "first past the post" system, requiring delimitation of constituencies, would mean no election before 1979.

On devolution, Mr Callaghan would not be drawn on timing.

He was scathing over the Conservatives' reluctance to do anything except "talk and talk and talk and talk". And that was the message of the Edinburgh devolution Bill. The first of the three bills to be introduced by the Government was the Scotland Bill. But his most explosive answer came to Mr Tam Dalyell, from the Labour side. Mr Dalyell asked whether the Government was prepared to let the Edinburgh devolution Bill be able to vote in matters in their own constituencies? Mr Callaghan retorted that if he "does not vote for the Bill he will not be able to vote for anything much else, I can tell you."

Mr Richard Watkinson, Liberal MP for Colne Valley, took that to be draconian discipline. But more likely Mr Callaghan meant that Mr Dalyell's Scottish constituency would have done with him if he persisted in opposing devolution.

# Noise and piracy plans will push up fares, airlines say

By Arthur Reed

Air fares are bound to rise as a result of the measures outlined in the Queen's Speech to change the system of pay-security for security against air piracy and for taxing noisy aircraft.

Both schemes will cost the airlines more to operate. Opinion in the industry last night was that the extra charges must be added to passenger and cargo tariffs.

The change in charging for security measures at airports was foreshadowed by the Department of Trade in February when it was estimated that a levy of 80p on each arriving passenger would be necessary.

The Government pays £15m a year for security vetting at airports. That figure is expected to rise to £15m by April 1, 1978.

The new plan, to be included in an amendment to the Civil Aviation Act, will make air-traffic authorities liable for paying security vetting charges to the airlines.

The amendment of the aviation Acts covering noise will empower airport authorities to penalize airlines that operate aircraft that cause too much noise, vibration or any other form of pollution, such as smoke.

Details of the scheme remain to be worked out by the Department of Trade, which could choose several methods of applying penalties.

Whichever scheme is adopted it will have the effect of hastening the scrapping of older, noisier aircraft such as the early Boeing 707s, DC8s and Trident, and the purchase by the airlines at enormous cost of the new generation of wide-bodied airliners.

# Doubts on chances of law reform measures

The vague reference to law reform in the speech is indicative of the difficulty, which is in finding time to consider any but its most important legislative proposals.

It is unlikely that any of the law reform measures in the pipeline can be implemented unless there is all-party agreement on their content, allowing them to be dealt with in second reading committee instead of by full debate on the floor of the House.

Probably the most important law reform measure in waiting would bring the law on matrimonial issues applied in the magistrates' courts into line with that used in the higher courts. At present there are sometimes significant differences in the way the two levels of court deal with the same facts. The legislation would follow recommendations made by the Law Commission.

Another important reform would streamline the structure of the courts in Northern Ireland, in much the same way as the courts in England and Wales were rationalized in 1971.

A short Bill tidying up the confused state of the law on the legal immunity of foreign heads of state and foreign governmental agencies is on the stocks.

For Scotland laws are to be introduced implementing some of the recommendations of the Thomson committee on criminal procedure. They may include reducing the size of Scottish juries (now 15 members) increasing the powers of sheriffs, and allowing tape recordings to be admitted in evidence.

# Planning law may need redrafting

By John Young

Uncertainty about the planning law at local authority level has been disclosed by an application now under review by the Vale of White Horse district council, Oxfordshire. The case suggests that authorities may be misinterpreting the various Town and Country Planning Acts, or that the Acts themselves need redrafting.

The circumstances of the application, although it has aroused a local protest, including that of Sir John Birt, man, are of mainly parochial interest. In 1973 a farmer in the Cotswold village of Shellington was granted outline permission by the former district council to build a house for his dairy herd manager.

Residents objected that the building would obstruct their view and would detract from the setting and character of the village in general. When, to their relief, a detailed application was refused, they applied to the present council in September last year, the issue was assumed to have been resolved.

But earlier this year a new application was submitted for a four-bedroom house and double garage on the same site. Instead of immediately rejecting it, the council believed that it was obliged to consider the details because the outline permission was no longer valid. The council has now decided to call a confidential meeting of its planning committee next Monday to reconsider the whole matter.

must be submitted, had long since expired, as had the six-month period allowed for appeals. But the council still insisted that the mere fact that the first detailed application had been submitted within three years, even though it had been refused, meant that the outline permission was still valid and could not be revoked without the council's incurring liability for compensation.

The Department of the Environment, this week, confirmed the opinion expressed by counsel for the objectors that the council was misinterpreting the law and that the outline permission was no longer valid. The council has now decided to call a confidential meeting of its planning committee next Monday to reconsider the whole matter.

Mr Fisher said he objected to Mr Fisher's "doctoring" his articles. He was an independent writer and it was not the role of the editor to introduce into articles words that he would not have written without his consent.

Mr Fisher said any alterations made were in good faith. He had made many efforts to speak to Mr Tether but the time came when he simply gave up.

Mr Jeffrey Owen, the newspaper's deputy editor, said many of Mr Tether's articles could be regarded as "borderline" in the sense that neither he nor Mr Fisher thought their quality was very good. It was totally untrue that Mr Fisher had been motivated by malice in his editorial judgments.

The hearing continues today.

# 'Many are engaged in shady deals'

Many businessmen who handled contracts with countries in the Middle East were involved in shady deals, the prosecution alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday at the trial of a British Army officer accused of taking bribes. Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the Crown, said many essentially illegal dealings were disguised under a nice name.

He was opening the case against Lieutenant-Colonel David Randle, who worked for the Ministry of Defence sales organization, and two executives of a radio equipment firm.

Col Randle is accused of taking about £25,000 in bribes to ensure that radio equipment made by the two other defendants' company was bought and installed in Chieftain tanks sold to the Shah of Iran.

Mr Richardson said: "Many people are perhaps engaged in shady activities, unwilling to call a spade a spade. Every bribe is in a sense a commission, but not all commission money are bribes."

Col Randle, aged 40, of the Royal Signals, Aldershot, denies corruption charges with Geoffrey Wellburn, aged 40, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Frank Nurdin, aged 60, of Barnet Road, Wembley, Middlesex.

Mr Wellburn was managing director of Rascal BCC Ltd at Wembley, a subsidiary of the Rascal group at Bracknell, Berkshire which specializes in electronic and communication equipment. Mr Nurdin was the sales director.

The trial continues today.

# Firemen may call for strike although leaders back 10%

By Our Labour Staff

The Fire Brigades Union executive is expected to recommend its 30,000 members to accept a pay offer of 10 per cent and the prospect of further advances on earnings and hours next year.

The decision, however, remains with the recalled annual conference of the union next Monday, at which militant firemen are expected to seek strike action in support of their original claim for 30 per cent.

Union leaders agreed yesterday to circulate brigades with details of the offer after talks with the local authority employers resumed.

Neither side would say what the details were. Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, felt it best to report the outcome of the discussions to the membership.

After consultations between both sides and Mr Rees, Home Secretary, it appears that the employers have stuck rigidly to their line of 10 per cent as an immediate increase.

But they have indicated, without firm commitment, that the firemen's 48-hour week might be reduced by three hours next autumn and another three in 1979.

Mr Rees is believed to have told the two sides in the negotiations that to compensate for that, money should be available to recruit the extra 3,000 firemen who will be needed at each stage.

Discussions would also continue on the pay of firemen relative to other groups and Mr Rees is thought to have indicated that he would seriously consider the findings of any internal study.

As with the police, whose pay review by Lord Edmund-Davies is due in April, Mr Rees is not committing himself to a date for implementing any findings.

Monday's debate is likely to be stormy. With nine brigades restricting themselves to emergency calls, union leaders will find themselves under pressure. Staffordshire is one brigade that has called for industrial action and others are expected to follow suit.

# NUR to seek 'substantial' pay increases from April

The National Union of Railmen decided yesterday to lodge immediate claims for "substantial" pay increases from next April for its 170,000 members employed by British Rail, London Transport and British Transport Hotels.

The union's executive yesterday stood by NUR policy of not seeking to break the 12-month rule. But the union will be closely watching the negotiations on the miners' pay claim.

The NUR has started talks with the British Railways Board in the hope of gaining a national payment on productivity outside any annual wage rise.

In the event, the union's policy is far in excess to restore the standard of living before phase one.

To do that, the NUR calculates, would require rises of 63 per cent.

The NUR is in negotiations for its 20,000 members, mainly lorry drivers, in the National Freight Corporation. The negotiators are under pressure to go for an award near the level that offered to West Midlands lorry drivers in a deal being examined by the Government.

But so far neither party has committed itself to a figure.

# Denial that columnist lost independence

Mr M. H. (Fredy) Fisher, Editor of the *Financial Times*, denied at a London Industrial Tribunal yesterday that the newspaper's columnist, Mr C. Gordon Tether, lost his independence as a writer under his editorship.

Mr Tether, aged 63, of Hill Road, Worplesdon, Surrey who wrote the Lombard column in the *Financial Times* for 21 years alleged that he was unfairly dismissed 13 months ago after a protracted dispute over Mr Fisher's control of his articles. He seeks reinstatement and has rejected a compensation offer of full pay until normal retirement age, together with an unaffected pension.

Mr Tether, continuing his cross-examination yesterday, reminded Mr Fisher that he had told the tribunal that if an editor behaved unreasonably he would end up losing good

members of his staff. "Would you agree that is what happened in my case?" he asked.

Mr Fisher replied that Mr Tether had rendered long and distinguished service to the *Financial Times* but that he agreed with the findings of the NPA-NUJ dispute procedure that the working relationship between them had broken down and that that was why Mr Tether left the newspaper.

Mr Fisher disagreed that Mr Tether lost his independence under his editorship. If he had had a proper working relationship with Mr Tether he would never have altered his pieces without consultation. But in Mr Tether's case his options were to print his articles as they stood or alter them, trying not to change the sense in any way.

He was anxious to run as many pieces by Mr Tether as possible, and did not want to aggravate Mr Tether's state of

mind because he hoped that the dispute procedure would resolve the matter.

Mr Tether said he objected to Mr Fisher's "doctoring" his articles. He was an independent writer and it was not the role of the editor to introduce into articles words that he would not have written without his consent.

Mr Fisher said any alterations made were in good faith. He had made many efforts to speak to Mr Tether but the time came when he simply gave up.

Mr Jeffrey Owen, the newspaper's deputy editor, said many of Mr Tether's articles could be regarded as "borderline" in the sense that neither he nor Mr Fisher thought their quality was very good. It was totally untrue that Mr Fisher had been motivated by malice in his editorial judgments.

The hearing continues today.

# Think tank's radio 'error'

By Kenneth Gosling

Radio has been seen by the Central Policy Review Staff (think tank) as "a sort of public utility, like water or electricity, to be switched on when you need news and information about world affairs".

Mr Gerard Mansell, managing director, executive broadcasting, BBC, said yesterday that he proposed substantial cuts in external broadcasting, had overlooked its imponderable influence and the reasons why

people all over the world chose to listen to BBC.

The reason, he told the Royal Commonwealth Society, was a regard for British values and values in preference for the tone of British broadcasting and a trust in its professionalism and integrity.

Ultimately it is the climate of opinion which is subtly affected and good will towards Britain which is created, not just among those with power and influence but among the many in all walks of life whose cumulative influence must in the long run count as much."

# Lady Wootton favours Lords' abolition

By Our Political Correspondent

The Labour Party conference decision this year to "sign the death warrant" of the House of Lords is accepted "not without regret" by Lady Wootton of Abinger, the Labour peer, in an article published by *New Society* today.

"I am driven to the conclusion that whatever path to reform one may explore, one is eventually blocked by insuperable obstacles, and that (at least in a unitary state) a second chamber is bound to be either obstructive or superfluous," she writes.

If Bills could be first published for wide discussion and if the Commons worked to a sensible timetable and made more use of committees to examine legislative proposals, surely 635 elected legislators be enough to govern us, without the addition of a few hundred more men and women doing the same work, she says.

# Life sentence for murder of Heidi Reddin

Sentences of life imprisonment for murder and eight years for rape, to run concurrently, were imposed by Mr Justice Croom-Johnson at Norwich Crown Court yesterday on Paul Hunter, aged 27, a dustman, Paradise Road, Downham Market, Norfolk.

He had pleaded not guilty to the charges, which involved Heidi Reddin, aged 14, of Crest, Downham Market, who disappeared in December 1976 while hitch-hiking and whose body was found in a ditch.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty by a majority of 10 to two.

# Police harm charge

Stuart Brickell, aged 22, accountant, was remanded in custody on charges of causing grievous bodily harm to two police officers.

10/11/77



10,000 15p

# RIGHT NOW, IT'S WHAT BRITISH INDUSTRY NEEDS.

Hidden amongst all the good news that's making the financial headlines are a few worrying facts.

The first: our economy is down there with Italy's and Southern Ireland's fighting to get off the bottom of the league.

Another: We're the only western country to have suffered a falling standard of living.

The third fact is: It looks as if, for the fourth year running our industrial growth will be close to zero.

The remedy to all these, as any student of economics will tell you, is to boost investments.

Quickly.

We at Barclays Bank agree with them.

Which is precisely what you'd expect a bank to say. Especially one that is already lending over £2,000 million to Industry and wants to lend more.

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We believe it is.

Shares, gold reserves and the pound are up. Inflation, the increase in retail prices and raw material costs are down.

So too are interest rates.

Our base rate is now a flat 6%\*

Interest rates on Medium Term Loans are more favourable now than they have been for a number of years.

But there are other factors.

For the first time in many years this country is earning its keep.

North Sea oil is providing a steady flow of money that's helping to stabilize our economy.

Foreigners are starting to put their Francs, Dollars and Marks into Britain again.

And according to the IMF we're making better progress than expected along the road to recovery.

It is now, with these signs of what the journalists call an 'up turn' in our economy, that investment will do the most good.

The reasons that companies give for lack of growth and poor performance are, we know, many and varied.

But this time, with funds as close as your nearest Barclays Bank, lack of money won't be one of them.

**BARCLAYS**



PARLIAMENT, November 3, 1977

Reintroduction of legislation on devolution and direct elections heads new session's programme

The Queen's Speech at the opening of the new session in the House of Lords this morning was as follows: My Lords and members of the House of Commons, My husband and I look back with delight and gratitude on the events which marked my Silver Jubilee at home and overseas, and the visits which we made in many parts of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. I look forward to paying a state visit to the Federal Republic of Germany next May and to opening the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in August.

In pursuit of peace and collective security, the United Kingdom remains committed to the United Nations, disarmament and the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons. My Government reaffirms its policies in international relations and defence, and will continue to play its part in the work of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the North Atlantic Alliance.

While working for policies which fully reflect the interests of the United Kingdom, my Government will play a full and cooperative part in the activities, the development and the enlargement of the European Economic Community. They will continue to contribute modern and effective forces to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and to play their full part in the current alliance structure of the East-West relations and the alliance's defence programmes. They are participating constructively in the work of the Council of Europe, which is being held as part of the follow-up to the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. They will abide by the provisions of the Final Act, and continue to seek fulfilment of all its provisions by other signatories. They remain committed to the pursuit of détente in their relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of eastern Europe.

My Government will continue to take part in international efforts to combat racism and promote a more stable world economic order, and a fairer distribution, within an expanding world economy, of the world's wealth and resources. They will continue to help the poorest countries and the poorest people.

They will work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and the further development of relations between the United Kingdom and all the countries in the area. They will continue to search for a lasting settlement in Cyprus, where they welcome the resumption of intercommunal talks.

Efforts will be maintained to achieve a negotiated settlement in Rhodesia, on the basis of my Government's proposals published in September this year, which are designed to provide a secure future for people of all races. My Government will be ready during the current session to introduce legislation to enable Rhodesia to exercise its independence on this basis. Members of the House of Commons, Estimates for the public service will be laid before you.

Back again to candles and power cuts

House of Commons Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Baroness Thatcher), said she had the feeling they had been there before.

Here we are (she said) going round the same course again. We have been here before when we look at the background of strikes. It is ironic in this jubilee year that the people of this country were made to experience the changes of the opening of Parliament. (Conservative shout of "Disgraceful.")

It was also interesting to see the strike figures for the first months of the year up to and including September. Far more working days were lost in the year 1977, than in the year 1976. In 1977, 5,500,000 working days were lost compared with 3,500,000 in 1976. Some of the difficulties have been resolved, but many more are still being resolved, and many more are still being resolved.

Here are some (she continued) back to better off candles and power cuts. We have been here before.

On the mini-budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had done a disservice to himself and to future generations by laying himself open to the charge of having come to the aid of the public. He would not be able to resist another charge.

In the past (she continued) Ministers have been expected to make up their minds about income tax. That is what a strategy is all about. Indirect taxes were used as a regulator and when the next reduction of income tax would occur because there was nothing to stop them from doing so. The Government introduced a new tax, the so-called "poll tax", which the Tories would double the rate after time in the country, and pretend there was any political conviction. There was not. When it was reduced, people suffered and services were cut.

On the statement by Mr. Brannen to the joint session of the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, Mr. Brannen would have agreed that negotiations would begin last July on the subject of a referendum on the specific questions of whether they want to see the passage of the Bill, a major issue for the Government.

For reasons that have never been made clear but which we can all understand, the Conservative Party is still opposed to coming to a conclusion on this matter. All they want is a never-ending round of talk and talk.

Experience showed it was always possible for talks to prevent the passage of the Bill, and unless there was a timetable, the Government therefore proposed a fixed amount of time should be allowed for the Bill to be passed. The Government would be asking the House to agree a timetable which would allow for a serious discussion and a proper conclusion.

The policy of the Government was to play a strong and positive part in the development of the European Community. They would again present to Parliament a Bill to provide direct elections to the European Assembly. This would be done with two conditions in mind.

First, the authority of national governments and parliaments had to be maintained. Second, they had to ensure that the common policies followed by the Community did not impede national governments in attaining their economic, industrial and social objectives. In that context they would continue to work for changes in the common agricultural policy.

The Bill to provide for direct elections was substantially the same Bill as that which the House passed in the last session. (Interruptions.) Judging from the interruptions it was likely to give some difficulties in the House.

The Government's conclusion (she said) is that we are bound by the principle of the common policies. The House has agreed the principle. The Government will be asked to ensure that the common policies followed by the Community do not impede national governments in attaining their economic, industrial and social objectives. In that context they would continue to work for changes in the common agricultural policy.

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The Government Front Bench in the House of Commons awaiting the summons to hear the Queen's Speech yesterday.

PM's warning of a winter of dislocation and inconvenience: pay guidelines must stand

Mr James Callaghan, the Prime Minister (Cardinal, South-East, Lab.) said he supposed Mrs Thatcher would try to have it both ways. He would not carry much conviction. It did not lie in her mouth to pick up the kind of people who had been introduced to the Tories would double the rate after time in the country, and pretend there was any political conviction. There was not. When it was reduced, people suffered and services were cut.

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Television blackout resented by peers

House of Lords Government, Opposition and Liberal peers combined in condemning the action of the Association of Broadcasting Companies in preventing the broadcasting and televising of the state opening of Parliament.

Lord Carrington, Leader of the Conservative Party, said the matter was not one of the debate on the Queen's Speech, but was a matter of the right of the public to see the Queen and her family. He said the BBC's action had caused a great deal of disappointment and dismay.

The emergency strike committee (he said) were trying to work out ways of enabling the television to broadcast the ceremony without alienating the public. I do not think that they have succeeded. (Cheers.)

Lord Byers, Leader of the Liberal Party, said he had been told that the action of the ABC was a matter of the right of the public to see the Queen and her family. He said the BBC's action had caused a great deal of disappointment and dismay.

The emergency strike committee (he said) were trying to work out ways of enabling the television to broadcast the ceremony without alienating the public. I do not think that they have succeeded. (Cheers.)

Supporter of Europe elections interrupted

House of Commons Mr Tom Bradley (Leicester, East, Lab.) moved that the House should support the Bill for the European Assembly. He said the Bill was a landmark in the history of the European Community. He said the Bill was a landmark in the history of the European Community. He said the Bill was a landmark in the history of the European Community.

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Next week's business

Monday: Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech. Subject: Prevention of crime.

Tuesday: Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech. Subject: Industry and Commerce.

Wednesday: Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech. Subject: Employment.

Thursday: Debate on the economic situation.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons Today at 11: Continuation of debate on Queen's Speech.

Mr Hamilton attacks Prince Philip: 'Just about sick of activities on political plane'

Mr Richard Wainwright (Oxford, Lab.) said it was largely a Queen's Speech of consensus and very much the better for that in the present circumstances.

There was a welcome absence of sectarian doctrinaire terms. Not even the most rigorous and pedantic member of the Opposition could find any trace of Socialism in it.

It was plainly the duty of the House to devote a lot of time this session to the major constitutional issues. He was grateful for the opportunity to make representations to the Government about the devolution Bills and the Bill for direct elections.

The commitment that meaningful consultations would be held without delay with a view to encouraging participation in the new measures was under active consideration to assist small firms. Liberals also welcomed the announcement about preparations to streamline the Municipal Commission. Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission. A fair competition policy throughout trade and industry.

Liberals had been consistently opposed to monopoly for generations. They believed that at present monopoly was too much assisted by a cumbersome collection of laws and regulations which were inefficient and wasteful.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Suffolk, Lab.) said Mrs Thatcher, in her comments about public expenditure, had been joined by an ally, one of the biggest recipients of public expenditure in the country—the Duke of Edinburgh.

It was about time the Labour Government stood up against people who were attacking public ownership and public expenditure and who did not know what the implications were for individual freedoms and liberties of ordinary people.

He hoped Mrs Thatcher and Prince Philip would bear these things in mind before they opened their mouths again.

Mr Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen, Pl Cymru) said that crisis would not be too strong a word to describe the situation in Wales, where 45 per cent of the houses were built before the war compared to one third in England. He said the Government had no idea of the magnitude of the housing crisis. It would never have arisen if Wales had had her own government.

Mr James Marshall (Leicester, Lab.) said he regretted that the Government were persisting in their attempt to bring forward the Bill for direct elections. He hoped it could still be defeated.

Mr Victor Goodwin (St Albans, C) said Britain should be consistent in its support for human rights wherever it occurred.

The majority of countries putting pressure on and blackmailing Britain were those in which human rights were being destroyed. He said the Government were concerned. They were mainly one-party states.

It was a sad aspect of the Government's position was that they were being pressurized by their potential enemies into attacking their friends.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab.) said he had been subjected to a recorded broadcast on commercial radio by the Duke of Edinburgh.

It was a broadcast that made Mrs Thatcher (Baroness Thatcher), Leader of the Opposition, sound like a radical Marxist. It could have been prepared by Tony Blair, and in fact it probably was. It forecast the day when every seed of everybody was being sown by the state.

He said he knew about this (he said) because every seed of every member of his family had been provided by the state from birth to death. (Shouts of "Rubbish.")

He talked about erosion of individual freedom of choice in education, health and the rest. There had been no such erosion of his freedom in the last 30 years. By 1975, he was in receipt in his own right of a salary of £55,000 a year which would not be increased. (Shouts of "Rubbish.")

Last year, on the height of incomes restraint, the Government decided that he could not manage on £55,000 a year and it had to be increased to £58,000. (Shouts of "Worth every penny.") When I asked the Chancellor if that conformed with income policy, his answer was a cry of "Yes."

The whole family has been treated with incomprehensible generosity. Princess Margaret in 1975 was getting along on £35,000 a year tax free. We increased that to £50,000 a year, nearly £1,000 a week, spending most of her time in the West Indies.

Princess Anne received £25,000 a year in 1975, and this was increased to £45,000.

Let the Government not be tough with the miners in that context. These figures made the miners' claim seem poor.

I was the Government about this (he continued) that he did not usually make threats, but if they dare to touch these amounts this year, then they cannot count on my vote in any of the critical votes coming in the next 12 months.

We are just about sick of the activities of the Duke of Edinburgh on a political plane, commencing in his broadcast a week or two ago.

Mr Nicholas Scott (Kensington and Chelsea, C) said he was becoming impatient with Mr Hamilton's continued attacks on the Royal Family. (A Conservative shout of "Disgraceful.")

If his views were ever put to the test (he said) they would be overwhelmingly repudiated. The way he goes on repeating them is little short of disgraceful.

Mr John Lee (Birmingham, Hands-on, Lab.) said he did not share Mr Hamilton's views on the monarchy but he could not think it was and it might well not be a considerably proper.

The sovereign's consort to make speeches that were open to the public, then they cannot count on my vote in any of the critical votes coming in the next 12 months.

We are just about sick of the activities of the Duke of Edinburgh on a political plane, commencing in his broadcast a week or two ago.

The debate was adjourned. House adjourned, 9.50 pm.

John 100 150



# Government move to vet students' union financing as NUS seeks state-guaranteed minimum £3 fee

The union hopes that a guaranteed minimum fee would go some way towards smoothing out the big disparities in the level of annual students' union fees. In the universities such fees include £14 for each full-time student at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and £55 at Edinburgh. Financing in further education (non-degree courses) is even more chaotic, the union says.

authority then in effect automatically pays the fee required, without further question.

The students' union points out in its strategy paper that this system does not fulfil the principle of public accountability contained in the recent Layfield report on local authority financing, which was accepted by the Government.

*The payment of student union fees is a strategy paper of the National Union of Students, 302 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9J.D.*

# Growth no answer to joblessness, study says

They believe, however, that many new jobs could be created by expanding other "wealth-producing activities", such as service industries.

Their proposals for reducing the supply of labour include more early retirement and work-sharing. More controversially, they suggest a ban on anyone starting work until the age of 18, and adopting a "learning period" for all 16 to 18-year-olds.

## Doctors find tranquillizer that does not dull senses Safe treatment for stage fright

Mr Edward Heath. About fifty members of the Front demonstrated outside the meeting.

As Mr Heath was being introduced a young man shouted: "This man, you say, has changed the future of our country. This man has betrayed our country. This man's policy has betrayed Britain." He was escorted out.

A young woman who then got up and shouted: "You are a traitor to the country" was also escorted.

made it plain that he would not stay in his present position if the pay guidelines were demonstrably broken.

"It may be that the question was not answered in 1974 and that it is now being posed again. It remains to be seen whether it is going to be answered or not."

Mr Heath said more working days had been lost this year through strikes than were lost in 1973, the last year the Conservatives were in power.

In a passing reference to the demonstration outside, Mr Heath said that when large numbers of young people came from school and university and were unable to find jobs they lost faith in the democratic system. Unemployment led to a growth of boogalanism and communal feeling. Racial harmony depended on restoring economic growth and providing more jobs.

## Reduction in role of commission suggested

The Home Office's staffing check says there is no need for a separate education section in the commission and that the work can be done by its goods, facilities and services section. It is also believed to say that the education section contains too many staff and that the main thrust of the commission's work should be concentrated on employment.

It is not thought likely that anything will come of the matter.

## NF members interrupt Heath rally

A young woman who then got up and shouted: "You are a traitor to the country" was also ejected.

Mr Heath said more working days had been lost this year through strikes than were lost in 1973, the last year the Conservatives were in power.

system. Unemployment led to a growth of hooliganism and intraracial feeling. Racial harmony depended on restoring economic growth and providing more jobs.

It is not thought likely that anything will come of the report.

## Wrong to prolong a useless life, surgeon maintains

## Police found pub bars crowded with caged birds

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## Police found pub bars crowded with caged birds

**Prison drug allegations 'are unfounded'**

Anthony Newman, aged 27, of Tilbury, Essex, admitted possessing one kestrel, and Thomas Hart, aged 18, also of Tilbury, admitted possessing eight wild birds, and another charge of offering them for sale. Mr Hasler, Mr Wright and Mr Hart were fined £10 on each offence, and Mr Newman, who said he found the kestrel near his home, was fined £15.

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rmit.

## Prison drug allegations 'are unfounded'

Lord Harris said prisons contained many hundreds of people who, in the opinion of the medical officers, were suffering from mental disorders and in need of treatment in psychiatric hospitals. These people stretch our already inadequate resources to the limit and place an incalculable burden on all of those who are responsible for their welfare."

## Journalists given bail in contempt case

in that it attempted to influence and prejudice the minds of magistrates before whom an application for summons had been made by Roger Leaves, after he had started his application. They were also accused of enticing a boy to make statements prejudicial to the conduct of a case pending in the Central Criminal Court and removing him to an unknown destination.



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## WEST EUROPE

# French Government announces measures to tackle food prices

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 3

M. Barre, the French Prime Minister, today explained to the Cabinet the latest measures he is proposing to tackle inflation. They fall into three main categories:

1. Sanctions to prevent profiteering, with penalties for breaking certain price limits.
2. Reduced tariffs on some foods.
3. Streamlining of food distribution and wholesaling.

The main food items affected are chickens, which are to be sold at 5 per cent lower than the price on October 15, veal, fish and shellfish, which will be subject to profit margins limits similar to those now in force for beef. Drink prices in bars and restaurants will also be subject to a price ceiling.

Fresh pastries will be subject to a price freeze and other items, including croissants, will be relieved of value-added tax. Butter will also go on sale at lower prices next month.

The reorganization of the big food market at Rungis, outside Paris, and the creation of big supermarkets are to be put in hand, together with the development of a campaign of consumer information.

The measures will generally take some time to bring into force. M. Barre has avoided the short-term electoral advantage of a general price freeze in favour of following his long-term economic strategy to rebuild the economy. The election dates were announced officially today as March 12 and 19.

Announcing the measures on television this evening M. Barre said the fight against inflation was a collective one. "We have too often had the tendency to think that inflation is someone else's fault, when really we all have a responsibility for it," he said.

M. Barre said he was pleased that the cost of services had risen by only 5 per cent in the first nine months of the year. He blamed the much steeper rise in the cost of food to a large extent on imported commodities, such as coffee and

chocolate. Bad weather had also pushed up the cost of fruit and vegetables.

The Government will be lucky, therefore, if the rise in food prices, running now at 14 per cent, can be slowed enough by the end of the year to keep the rise in the cost of living index below last year's figure of 9.9 per cent.

M. Barre will nevertheless try to point to hopeful economic indicators as the election looms. There are now signs that wage restraint is beginning to pay dividends and industries' order books are starting to be filled. The "Barre plan" has been in operation now for about a year. The Cabinet also agreed a list of social and economic measures: harmonization of hospital charges; better social security for artists and writers; more support for small businesses; and an improvement in administrative processes to help the public. Individually, nothing of extreme importance was agreed, but collectively the items add up to an attractive package to clutch in an election campaign.

The problems of the left, particularly of the Socialist Party two days before its national convention, have been confusing. The minority left-wing Ceres group within the party has issued a statement reaffirming the solidarity of the Socialist Party with the underground movement to support the common programme with the Communists.

M. François Mitterrand, the party's leader, has rounded on the group, warning it against making "inadmissible concessions". He must be worried, however, that at least part of the 25 per cent of his party that are Communists will defect to the Communists.

He is also facing an attack from the Left Radicals, the third member of the Union of the Left. They are threatening to withdraw from the government if the Socialists do not agree to allow their candidates to fight two constituencies. The present agreement is that the Left Radicals will fight 37 seats and the Socialists 197.

## Judges consider verdict in Croissant extradition case

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 3

The court of appeal in Paris is to rule on November 16 whether Herr Klaus Croissant, the West German defence lawyer in the Baader-Meinhof case, should be extradited to face trial in his own country.

After a hearing that went on without interruption for nine hours and finished just after midnight, the court is expected to consider a verdict which is bound to have widespread repercussions.

In the words of the French Attorney General, M. Paul André Sado, who took the unusual step of pleading the case himself, the court must

decide at what point the freedom of liberty to defend a client ends and complicity with a criminal begins.

This fundamental legal point is clouded by the political overtones. It is this factor that has made the case a unique legal occasion. Not only is the Attorney General appearing in person but Herr Croissant has been defended by an international contingent of lawyers from France, Spain, Belgium, Italy and Germany.

Herr Croissant added to the tension in the crowded courtroom by denouncing the Bonn Government as a Nazi organization and claiming that if extradited he will be murdered "just as my clients were".

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## France and Quebec to hold regular summits

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Nov 3

France and Quebec are to hold regular meetings at prime minister level to stimulate co-operation, President Giscard d'Estaing announced today. They will be held alternately in Quebec and France.

Speaking at a luncheon for Mr René Lévesque, Premier of Quebec, the President said his arrival here meant a family reunion. France was the neighbour, ally or friend of many countries, but with Quebec alone was the rapport in the most exact sense of the word "fraternal".

If fellow French were moved each time they met, it was not only because of their common origins but even more because they could calculate just what their "long fidelity" meant and because they knew how much effort, obstinacy and courage on the part of generations of Québécois had been needed to save their own French heritage.

"However long the winter, the spring will one day follow", the President said, quoting from a French Canadian song. "Whatever happened in Quebec, he went on, France could be relied on to provide the spring. "Today they have become aware of what they are, what they value and what they want. They are a people and they naturally want their quality and prerogatives to be recognized."

The Québécois personality

was equally divided between its French identity and its American dimension, the President said. Although France was not indifferent to "the political debate" developing in Quebec, it was not its place to interfere. The people would make their own minds up. "You have the right and you have the ability. What you look for from France, as I know from having lived among you, is its understanding, its confidence and its support. You can count on them all along the route that you decide to follow."

## EEC proposal for increased protection of hire-purchase customers

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Nov 3

Proposals are to be submitted by the European Commission before the end of the year which would give citizens of all EEC countries the same rights when entering into hire-purchase and other credit agreements.

Although broadly in line with Britain's Consumer Credit Act of 1974, the Commission's directive would in some respects go further in its protection of the debtor.

Disclosing this in a speech tonight in Ireland, Mr. Michael Hornsby, the EEC Commissioner for consumer affairs, said that the promise of "easy terms" often concealed massive

interest charges. Borrowers frequently did not fully appreciate the obligations they were accepting when they signed credit agreements.

The Commission's proposal, Mr. Hornsby said, would have two main aims: to ensure that the terms on which credit was given were fully understood by the debtor, and to ensure that the conditions attached to the credit were fair.

There would be a general provision that, with the exception of bank overdrafts which were already well regulated, all credit agreements should be made in writing.

The cash price of the goods in question would have to be clearly distinguished from the

credit price (that is, the cash cost plus interest charges).

Another provision of the Commission's proposal, Mr. Hornsby said, would allow a "cooling-off" period of seven days during which a consumer who has entered into a hire-purchase agreement at a place other than the place of business of the creditor or supplier can cancel the agreement. This compares with the five-day period currently in force in Britain.

A further provision would enable a debtor to discharge his obligations under an agreement before its expiry and to receive a refund of a proportion of the interest and other charges.

## Andorra holds its first election in 700 years

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 3

The feudal state of Andorra held its first election in almost 700 years of existence, called a *cometage*. As before a feudal state, only 3,206 of the 27,000 inhabitants had the right to vote, even though there are 8,000 native Andorrans.

The voters are the heads of family who have been asked to decide on a series of reforms intended to adapt the country to the modern world. These are to be made the subject of a referendum to be held between now and March 1, in time to be presented to the Co-Princes of Andorra, the Spanish Bishop of Urgel and President Giscard d'Estaing, at its 700th birthday celebrations on September 8.

Andorra traces its independence back to the days of Charlemagne.

Until now government in Andorra has been administered by a General Council of 24 members elected by the six parishes and headed by a syndic chosen by the council. Law is administered by two "vicars" or judges appointed by each of the Co-Princes, and convicted criminals are sent to French prisons.

The franchise has always been very limited although it was extended slightly after a bloodless revolution in 1933. The first poll of the heads of family would seem to indicate that universal suffrage will be agreed.

## Spaniards urged to work and save more

From William Chislett  
Madrid, Nov 3

Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, left here this morning for Bonn on the final leg of his tour of the EEC capitals after appealing to Spaniards last night to support his economic pact with the Organisation.

In his first televised speech since the June general election, he urged Spaniards to make sacrifices for the economic pact of austerity measures to be successful in righting what he described as a "grave situation". They should work harder and save more.

"Spain can no longer allow the luxury of losing millions of work hours a year and one of the lowest rates of productivity in Europe," he said. Four main steps would be taken:

1. The amount of money in circulation would not increase by more than 17 per cent next year.
2. There would be a wage ceiling of 22 per cent.
3. Price increases would be kept to the same amount.
4. Tax reforms would fall heaviest on those who earned the most.

If all these points were fulfilled, Spain's huge balance of payments deficit, expected to reach \$5,000m (£2,800m) by the end of the year, would be reduced and the present inflation rate of 30 per cent would come down.

The opposition parties have reiterated their support for the pact, with warnings from the Communist and Socialist leaders that they would be very exacting in making sure that the Government fulfilled its side of the bargain.

Señor Suárez said there were no magic formulas. Pacts would be useless in spite of the many votes behind the parties which signed, unless all Spaniards threw their weight behind them. It was essential to restore confidence so that investment would start again, he said.

Police in the Basque country were searching today for three men who last night shot dead a police sergeant outside his home in Irún.

## Strike stops all Italian flights

Rome, Nov 3.—A strike by customs officers and airport firemen halted all flights in and out of Italy today. The stoppage was part of a 24-hour walk-out by 300,000 government employees after a breakdown in pay negotiations.—Reuter.

## Bonn stops Schleyer file becoming a best-seller

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Nov 3

The West German Government has found, to its astonishment and discomfort, that its somewhat dry, 224-page volume documenting the Schleyer kidnapping and the subsequent hijacking has become overnight the most sought-after book in the country.

All 800 copies of the first edition were snapped up after it was made available to the press. Parliament and public yesterday and many people were turned away.

As Herr Klaus Bölling, the Government spokesman, was telling a press conference that there was "no question" of a large scale publication of the

volume, orders were beginning to pour in.

The Government press office began to change its mind when a representative of a Munich publishing house turned up with plans to put 50,000 copies of the document on the market by next Monday.

He was told that Government was strongly opposed to the commercial exploitation of this particularly serious subject. Moreover, it was pointed out, Parliament and the Government were free.

The press office is now planning to print as many copies as are needed. "From next week every citizen who asks for one shall have one free", a spokesman said.

## German officers to learn more political history

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Nov 3

West German officers will soon get better instruction in political history and civics as a result of recent anti-Semitic incidents, Herr Georg Leber, the Defence Minister, indicated today.

Civic awareness is an indispensable requirement for service in the Bundeswehr, he said, speaking at an officers' college at Neuburg, near Munich, where 11 young officers played at "burning Jews" and sang Nazi songs during a drinking session earlier this year.

Six of the officers were discharged and a court is examining the Ministry's request for the dismissal of five more senior ones. Disciplinary action is being taken against their superiors for failing to punish them and to report the incident.

## Twinned towns issue call for civic unity

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 3

Civic power to counter-balance the superpowers was suggested as a solution to the world's problems at the Ninth World Conference of Twinned Towns meeting at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe. More than 800 delegates from 50 countries called for a "new world order" in which humanitarian considerations would be more important than economic ones.

This will be the theme of a publication to be launched by thousands of twinned communities throughout the world. The conference agreed on the slogan "Back to the United Nations of countries with the united nations of communities".

The conference passed, unanimously, a manifesto calling on all communities in the world to form grouped open cities free for anyone to enter.

## Swiss most trusted by EEC inhabitants, poll finds

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Nov 2

Swiss bankers' hearts were no doubt warmed today by the news that people in the nine EEC countries trust the Swiss more than anybody else, just as they seem to have more confidence in the Swiss franc than any other currency.

That is according to the results of a poll, reportedly carried out by National Gallup Institutes at the request of the EEC commission, which are published today by the Zurich *Weltwoche*.

After the Swiss come the Americans, Dutch, Belgians and West Germans (equal), Danes, Luxembourgers, British, French, Irish, Italians, Chinese and Russians.

The countries that put the Swiss into top place were Holland, Denmark, West Ger-

many and Britain. They were not held in the same high esteem by Ireland, Belgium, France and Luxembourg.

In addition to its other attractions, Switzerland now claims to house the world's largest conglomeration of red wood ants—about 300 million of them. They occupy about 1,200 ant hills up to 7ft high over an area of 170 acres in the Marchsaur region.

The colonies, each containing up to 300,000 worker ants, are estimated, no doubt, the Swiss example—are linked by more than 60 miles of paths.

Consuming up to 50,000 insects a day, the red ants (*Formica lugubris*) have almost eliminated free parasites in their vicinity. The conglomeration, protected by law as are all ant colonies here, is in a nature reserve.

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More appointments on page 17



## OVERSEAS

## New strategic arms limit treaty 'will run for eight years'

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Nov 3

The Committee on the Present Danger, which consists of experts in diplomatic and military matters who are sceptical of détente, has obtained and issued what is clearly an up-to-date draft of the strategic arms limitation agreement now being negotiated at Geneva.

President Carter claims that the two sides are near to an agreement. The committee thinks that this is probably true and that it would be a disaster for the United States.

Mr Paul Nitze, himself a former senior official who helped negotiate the first strategic arms limitation agreement, gave details this week. The main points are as follows:

There will be a treaty (Salt 2), a protocol and a statement of principles. The treaty will run for eight years, presumably from the date of expiry of the previous agreement, October 3, 1977. It stipulates that the total number of strategic nuclear launch vehicles (SNLVs) will initially be limited to 2,400 for each side. The United States proposes that they should be reduced to 2,160 by 1980, the Soviet Union to 2,250 by 1982.

As far as this category of weapons is concerned, ICBM mean rockets with a range of over 5,500 kilometres (3,410 miles). The two sides have yet to agree on a range limit for SLBMs which would bring them into this category.

Of these 1,320 MIRV vehicles the number of ICBM is to be limited to 820 and the number of SLBM will be between the 380 proposed by the United States and the 430 proposed by the Soviet Union. The rest would be bombers carrying Cruise missiles. Of the 820 ICBM, the Russians will be allowed to keep their present number of large missiles

(MLBM) which is either 325 or 328, according to the way they are counted.

No future missiles heavier than the Soviet SS18 will be permitted in future and a missile heavier than the SS19 will be considered MLBM.

The Soviet Backfire bomber is not considered to be an SNLV. The Russian say that its present range is 2,200 kilometres and that its extended version will not be able to reach the United States and return without refuelling. They will promise not to use it as an intercontinental bomber.

No Cruise missiles with a range beyond 2,500 kilometres will be permitted, and none with a range greater than 500 kilometres may be tested or deployed from submarines or the ground. They must all be launched from bombers.

The Russians want to forbid the transfer of any strategic arms equipment or technology to third countries (such as Britain).

The Geneva protocol would concern testing future missiles with both sides wanting to reduce the next stage in the arms race. The statement of principles would concern targets for a subsequent treaty.

Mr Carter said that the White House has been endeavouring to explain away an apparent contradiction in statements made by President Carter and Mr Griffin Bell, the Attorney-General.

Last Wednesday, the President told a press conference that he had not discussed the Helms case with the Attorney-General. Mr Bell informed the press on Tuesday that, in fact, he had discussed it with the President in July.

Mr Richard Helms is the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency who had been involved in congressional committees on intelligence matters in order to protect the agency. He pleaded "no contest" to two minor charges on Tuesday and will be sentenced tomorrow, probably to a suspended jail term.

Mr Mintoff causes walkout in Peking

Peking, Nov 3.—Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, caused a sensation in Peking tonight when he

struck the Soviet Union at a banquet and provoked a walkout by Mr Vassili Tolstikov, the Soviet Ambassador, and Eastern block representatives.

It was the first time observed that an official guest of China had brought about such a walkout. This kind of protest is provoked normally by the Chinese.

Mr Mintoff said: "In the history of the Mediterranean, which is slowly but steadily changing its will be recorded that, although the Soviet Union has much to gain militarily by Malta's single-handed efforts to drive out the Mafia from her soil, the Soviet Union remained aloof and decided to make even the most rudimentary exchange of trade and information."

At these words, Mr Tolstikov stood up and walked out, followed by the envoys of East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia and Cuba.

Mr Mintoff went on to say that "in sharp contrast" to the Soviet attitude toward Malta, the generous deeds of the brave people of China stood out. He mentioned China's achievements in Malia, including one of the biggest ship-repairing docks in southern Europe and "several factories giving employment to thousands of Maltese workers."

Mr Mintoff denounced what he called "fanciful operations" aimed at working the government before 1979, when the British military base on the island has to close down.

Mr Mintoff made a plea for a "new and free Mediterranean" and peace in the region based on cooperation between Europe and the Arab countries and a military withdrawal by the two superpowers.—Agence France-Press.

General Chind and Lord Carver leaving Mr Smith's office yesterday.

Lord Carver in talks on transition

Salisbury, Nov 3.—Talks between British and United Nations envoys and Rhodesian Government officials today broadened to include constitutional issues involved in Anglo-American settlement plans.

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Commissioner designate, and General Prem Chand, the United Nations special representative, who yesterday had lengthy talks on ceasefire problems with military leaders, met civilian officials for three-and-a-half hours at the office of Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister.

Conversation was mainly about non-military matters related to transitional arrangements, a source close to the talks said. They included giving answers to some of the questions (on the Anglo-American proposals) raised by the Rhodesians some time ago.

Before today's talks began, designate, and General Prem Chand, the United Nations special representative, who yesterday had lengthy talks on ceasefire problems with military leaders, met civilian officials for three-and-a-half hours at the office of Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister.

Lord Carver was asked by journalists if progress was being made. "Oh yes," he replied. Lord Carver said later he had not yet met Mr Smith and did not know if he would meet him before leaving, probably on Saturday. Asked how today's talks went, he replied: "I'm not commenting at all."

The source said a "good mood" prevailed at the talks. It appeared that they were taking place in a cordial atmosphere as the British have planned a reception tomorrow night for all Rhodesian officials involved in various meetings.—Reuter.

Tories 'would give no respite to S Africa'

From Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, Nov 3

Mr John Davies, the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, has told the South African Government that it would be wrong to think that if a Conservative government were elected in Britain there would be a change in approach to the "intrinsic problems" of South Africa.

Mr Davies, who had an hour-long meeting yesterday with Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, informed journalists in Johannesburg today that he had told him no British government would let South Africa "off the hook of apartheid."

So long as the policy of separate development in its present form was pursued there would never be a "fair hearing" for South Africa in the West, Mr Davies said.

He was speaking at the end of a long-planned visit hurriedly brought forward from the South African Government's banning two weeks ago of 18 Black Consciousness organizations, the closure of two newspapers, and the detention without trial of more than 40 black activists.

Mr Davies said he had pointed out to Mr Vorster and other Government Ministers that the way the South African Government handled its many internal problems appeared to suggest that it deliberately did not want Western support.

He said: "The first reaction was the immediate delivery of a distributive about standards. But later there was greater understanding. I think the point has got somewhat home how best to treat problems here and if I were lucky, it might produce some results."

Mr Davies described his talks with Mr Vorster as "lively and sometimes quite boisterous." His encounter with Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, had been "more emotional."

He said he had come to South Africa to get information and to give it and also to come to his own conclusions about why Mr Vorster had called an early general election for November 30.

He had concluded that apart from the fact that Mr Vorster had chosen to go to "the active electorate at present" while the opposition was in disarray, the underlying purpose was to have a strong mandate for a relatively wide liberalizing policy.

Mr Davies said he had made it clear that the way South Africa currently handles its internal problems made it appear that it deliberately does not want Western support. "It cuts the ground from under our feet. It must give more attention to seeking to handle affairs either to encourage agreement or silence at best," he said.

Of the widespread banings and detentions last month, Mr Davies said he was not aware of the circumstances that had led to the Government's action but his own personal view was that he would have "least over backwards" to avoid the measures "the South African Government had taken."

Mr Davies is the latest of several Conservative MPs to have visited South Africa. He said his trip was arranged partly through the South African Foundation, an influential propaganda organization, but was not in any way an expense of the British taxpayer. His main task was to report back to Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet.

He has met one black leader in South Africa, an education official in Soweto. He flies to Rhodesia tomorrow for talks with white political and business spokesmen.

Bank robber frees hostages and gives in

Montreal, Nov 3.—A bank robber armed with a high-powered rifle surrendered here last night after holding police at bay for half a day, by threatening to kill hostages.

Heavily armed policemen finally trapped the gunman in an block of flats after a chase through Montreal's northern suburbs.

He had left the bank with some of his original 11 hostages and an undisclosed amount of money. Police used a helicopter to track his movements as he commandeered several vehicles including a taxi.

His last hostages, two women, were freed just before he went into the flats, police said.

The drama began when police responding to a silent alarm at the Banque Canadienne Nationale found the man holding 11 people at rifle-point in the vaults.—Reuter.

Carter embarrassment at conflicting statements

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 3

The White House has been endeavouring to explain away an apparent contradiction in statements made by President Carter and Mr Griffin Bell, the Attorney-General.

Last Wednesday, the President told a press conference that he had not discussed the Helms case with the Attorney-General. Mr Bell informed the press on Tuesday that, in fact, he had discussed it with the President in July.

Mr Richard Helms is the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency who had been involved in congressional committees on intelligence matters in order to protect the agency. He pleaded "no contest" to two minor charges on Tuesday and will be sentenced tomorrow, probably to a suspended jail term.

The question of what to do about the Helms case was a very difficult one for the Attorney-General, and has been much discussed by the public for the past few years.

The discrepancy between the President's and Mr Bell's statements is very embarrassing for a man who has been based on the fact that he would never lie to the American people, nor give a misleading statement to the press. The White House explains that the President assumed that everyone knew about his meeting with Mr Bell in July, and when Mr Carter said then: "He has not consulted with me," he meant that Mr Bell had not consulted him recently.

The New York Times, which claims to publish all the news that is fit to print, observes this morning that it did not record the July meeting.

Man who leaked Pentagon Papers questions right to conceal lies

By Peter Stratford

The controversy that broke out in the United States in 1971 with the publication of the Pentagon Papers is being brought to life again by the BBC and Dr Daniel Ellsberg, who gave the documents to The New York Times, has made a stout defence of his action.

Dr Ellsberg's remarks are made for a BBC Radio 3 programme called "The Story of the Pentagon Papers" to be broadcast on Sunday. He explains his own background dealing with American policy in Vietnam, and he asks whether officials had the right "to keep their mouths shut about the lies that had been told them they knew of, about the crimes that had been committed, about the illegals, about the deception of the American public."

By 1971, he says, he had come to realize that he had been very wrong in imagining that he had the right to conceal all this information from the public.

He describes how he used to remove documents from his office at the Rand Corporation in the evening, photocopy them and return them in the morning. Altogether there were 7,000 pages, which he copied with the help of Mr Anthony Russo, and occasionally his son and daughter.

His original plan was to have the Pentagon Papers revealed in congressional hearings, and he was in touch with Senator Fulbright about that. But time dragged on, and he went to The New York Times.

The Pentagon Papers were an official study of the causes of American involvement in Vietnam and they showed the steps by which successive administrations had become more involved. Publication of long extracts in The New York Times caused a national sensation.

In Britain, of course, the whole episode could never have come about, a point made by the programme. However, compelling the reasons for publication might seem to some later-day Dr Ellsberg, the Official Secrets Act would prevent it.

Even in the United States, Dr Ellsberg says, he thought that what he was doing was illegal. He thought he would be sent to prison for it but decided to do all he could to have the documents published.

An ironic point brought out by the programme is that the man who originally edited the papers, Mr Leslie Gelb, never expected anyone to read them.

Court to hear Kennedy assassination allegation

From David Cross  
New York, Nov 3

A former Watergate burglar is awaiting trial here on charges that he threatened to kill a former woman spy to stop her allegations that he was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr Frank Sturgis, who served a short prison sentence for his part in the Watergate break-in, was arrested in New York on Monday at the home of the former spy, Miss Rita Lorenz, who claims to have been a lover of Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader. Mr Sturgis released from jail yesterday on bail.

The authorities here are apparently taking seriously Miss Lorenz's story that Sturgis threatened her with a gun. Mr Alan Broome, an assistant district attorney, says Sturgis told Miss Lorenz that "company (CIA) would take care of her" if she failed to agree her story.

Miss Lorenz, who is soon to publish a book based on her life, is reported to have told investigators for the committee on assassinations of the House of Representatives that together with Mr Sturgis and Mr Lee Harvey Oswald, the reputed killer of President Kennedy, she drove to Dallas from Miami a few days before the assassination.

Mr Sturgis, she maintains, introduced her to Oswald, and they studied maps of Dallas at a meeting held in Miami's "Taverna town." She says, however, that she left Dallas before the shooting.

Members of the House committee have refused to confirm or deny whether any evidence has been given them by Miss Lorenz.

According to the New York Post, which interviewed her yesterday, Miss Lorenz is being guarded by armed detectives in her flat. The police officers are tasting her food to make

sure it is not poisoned, she said. Miss Lorenz, who was photographed aiming a pistol at an imaginary target, told the newspaper she did not like being threatened. "I can be dangerous," she said. "My daughter can be dangerous. I'm very proud of my daughter for protecting me."

The daughter, Miss Monica Mercedes Pérez Jiménez, aged 15, whose father is reputed to be the former Venezuelan dictator, Marcos Pérez Jiménez, was arrested and then released to the custody of her mother for carrying a loaded pistol. She claimed she had obtained the weapon to protect her mother.

Not surprisingly, Miss Lorenz disagrees with Miss Lorenz's version of what happened. Her lawyers claim that Miss Lorenz invited him to come to New York from Miami, where he now lives, and even paid the air fare.

Vatican presents formal plea for jailed prelate

Jerusalem, Nov 3.—President

Kaczak received a formal request from the Vatican today to release the Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarión Capucci who is serving a 12-year jail sentence for smuggling weapons to Arab guerrillas in Israel.

Government sources said that Mr William Carey, the papal representative in the Holy Land, gave President Kaczak a note from the Pope, seeking the Archbishop's release on humanitarian grounds.

It is thought that he will be deported to Rome by the end of this week, although he expressed the wish that he be allowed to enter the Trappist monastery in Lavra, outside Jerusalem, in a letter to an Arabic-language newspaper yesterday.

Israel considers the Pope's note as a de facto recognition of Jerusalem's status as the Israeli capital, the sources said.—UPI.

Guy Lombardo is critically ill

Houston, Texas, Nov 3.—Guy Lombardo, the band leader, was in critical condition in hospital here today with complications which developed after he underwent open heart surgery in September. He is 75.—Reuter.

German Trade Fairs  
The world market places

Where supply meets demand

1978

January  
11-15. Heimtextil — Int. Fair for Home and Household Textiles, Frankfurt  
17-21. EuroShop — Retailing — Advertising — Selling, Düsseldorf  
18-22. Int. Boat Show, Düsseldorf  
22-25. ISM — Sweets and Biscuits Fair, Cologne  
February  
9-15. Int. Toy Fair, Nürnberg  
15-18. DOMOTECNICA — Int. Fair for household Appliances, Frankfurt  
18-22. CONSTRUCTA — Int. Building Exhibition, Hannover  
18-22. Int. Houseware Fair, Cologne  
18-21. Int. Hardware Fair, Cologne  
22-25. ISPO — Int. Sports Equipment Fair, Munich  
22-25. Int. Leathergoods Fair, Offenbach  
22-25. Int. Men's Fashion Week, Cologne  
22-25. Frankfurt Fair with Int. Fair for Musical Instruments, Frankfurt

March  
4-12. Int. Tourism-Exchange, Berlin  
8-12. INTERM — Int. Fair for Energy and Engineering, Stuttgart  
10-12. Int. Fair CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE, Cologne  
10-15. Internoride — Int. Exhibition for Hotels, Catering, Bakeries, Hamburg  
11-14. IGEDO — Int. Fashion Fair, Düsseldorf  
11-15. IHM — Int. Handicrafts Fair, Munich  
18-22. GDS — Int. Footwear Fair, Düsseldorf

April  
2-6. Int. Fashion Fair, Munich  
5-9. Int. Fair for Hunting and Sporting Arms, Nürnberg  
7-11. EuroShop — Retailing — Advertising — Selling, Düsseldorf  
18-22. Int. Boat Show, Düsseldorf  
22-25. IGEDO — Int. Fashion Fair, Düsseldorf  
22-25. ISLA — Int. Aerospace Exhibition, Cologne  
22-25. DLG — Int. Agricultural Show, Frankfurt  
22-25. OPTICA — Int. Fair for Ophthalmic Optics, Stuttgart

May  
22-31. Interstoff — Fair for Clothing Textiles, Frankfurt  
30-2 & FAB — Exhibition for Hospital Equipment, Supplies, Hamburg  
30-4 & INTERFORST — Int. Exposition of Technology of Forestry and Forest Industries, Munich

June  
4-11. IWC — Int. Exhibition Laundry — Dry Cleaning, Frankfurt  
5-10. IFAT — Int. Sewage, Refuse Engineering, City Cleaning Exhibition, Munich  
10-12. INTERPACK — Int. Fair for Packaging Machinery, Packaging Materials, Confectionery Machinery, Düsseldorf

August  
22-30. Int. Leathergoods Fair, Offenbach  
27-29. Int. Men's Fashion Week, Cologne  
30-4. Frankfurt International Fair, Frankfurt  
30-4 & Overseas Import Fair, Berlin

September  
10-13. IGEDO — Int. Fashion Fair with IGEDO DESIGNS, Düsseldorf  
11-15. SECURITY — Int. Security Exhibition, Essen  
18-20. IKOFA — Int. Fair of the Food Industry, Munich  
15-21. photokina — World Fair of Photography, Cologne  
16-24. German Industries Exhibition, Berlin  
22-25. GDS — Int. Footwear Fair, Düsseldorf  
22-25. IFAMA — Int. Bicycle, Motor Cycle Exhibition, Cologne  
22-27. automechanika — Int. Fair for Equipment for Motor Car Workshops, Service Stations, Spare Parts, Accessories, Frankfurt  
23-30. SIMM — Int. Exhibition, Ship, Machinery, Marine Technology, Hamburg  
30-4. Interboot — Int. Boat Show, Friedrichshafen

October  
1-3. SPOGA — Int. Fair of Sports Goods, Camping Equipment, Garden Furniture, Cologne  
1-2. Int. Garden Fair, Cologne  
1-5. Int. Fashion Fair, Munich  
13-16. Int. Fair CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE, Cologne  
18-23. Frankfurt Book Fair, Frankfurt  
18-23. INTERPACK — Int. Fair for Packaging Machinery, Packaging Materials, Confectionery Machinery, Düsseldorf  
22-25. IGEDO — Int. Fashion Fair, Düsseldorf  
24-28. ORGATECHNIK — Int. Office Fair for Fittings and Equipment, Cologne

November  
8-15. electronica — Int. Fair for Components and Assemblies in Electronics, Munich  
21-24. Interstoff — Fair for Clothing Textiles, Frankfurt

German Trade Fairs and Exhibitions  
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- \* Check that you haven't left the gas on and unlit—or that a light has not gone out.

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BRITISH GAS



## OVERSEAS

# Unita claims Russians and Czechs among its suppliers of arms

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Nov 3

Unita, the anti-government guerrilla force in Angola, is selling diamonds and gold to raise money to buy Soviet weapons, Mr Georges Szamunda, the group's foreign affairs secretary, said here today.

"We are sitting on a pile of riches," he said. "We are rich in diamonds, gold and precious minerals. We are in business, very big business."

The "big business," he said, was financing the movement's arms supply, which came from many places including Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. "Everyone, including the Russians, likes dollars," he said. "That is how Soviet weapons were being used to fight communist troops in the country."

Mr Szamunda's visit to Paris came as the group's propaganda war by Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) to counter claims made by the Angolan Government that aid is being given to the guerrillas by South Africa and Israel.

His mission is to deny this and to try to prove that Unita derives its arms supply either from its own resources or from aid offered very discreetly by other African countries, including some which officially recognize the government led by President Neto.

He would not say which countries were helping. "When you start to write your memoirs," he said, "then you as much as say you have lost the battle."

Nevertheless, he claimed that there was growing awareness within Africa that Angola was "a dangerous bastion of the Soviet Union, a bastion of subversion." That was why the South African Government was willing Unita to win—although he was very careful to say that there had been no material aid from there since the Angolan war ended in 1975.

He categorically denied that Unita received any aid from Israel, but said that on the contrary it supported the "just fight" of the Palestinians and hoped that a dialogue between Israel and the Arab world could produce a solution to the problems of the Middle East.

Mr Szamunda explained that his denials were necessary in the face of the "panic" statements being made by President Neto because of the military reverses his "illegal and

minority government" was suffering.

It was because of the success of Unita's 10,000 armed soldiers (with a further 8,000 trained but without arms) that 5,000 more Cubans have been sent to reinforce them, and why President Neto, during his recent visit to Moscow, had refused to release 3,000 Cubans to serve with Ethiopia against Somalia.

Force and government forces, he said, had launched an offensive against Unita on three fronts at the end of September, but, according to his figures, they had been outfought by Unita and had lost many men and a great deal of equipment.

The Cubans themselves were divided into three factions: those who were trying to desert; those who were trying to get back to Havana; and the third group who really were trying to support President Neto.

Despite the presence of the Cubans, Mr Szamunda claimed that Unita controlled 10 of the 15 provinces in the country. "Liberated zones" Unita had established 860 primary schools with 3,647 teachers, and a further 15 secondary schools with 120 teachers.

As there is an expeditionary force of 24,000 Cuban and 3,000 Soviet troops, the war of liberation will continue until all the mass graves and intelligence started by the Kremlin, Havana and Luanda will be doomed to failure because they do not correspond to the legitimate hopes of the Angolan people," he said.

Addis Ababa, Nov 3.—Ethiopia today denied allegations by President Siad Barre of Somalia that between 10,000 and 15,000 Cuban soldiers were fighting alongside Ethiopian troops in the conflict in the Ogaden region.

General Barre made the allegations at a press conference in Mogadishu this week.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian Ministry of Information said the Somali leader was deploying "imaginary troops" on Ethiopia's side because the war of aggression was not going well for Somalia.

He repeated earlier assertions that Ethiopia was perfectly capable of defending its territory and engaged without outside help and said a Somali defeat was certain, even though Ethiopia had experienced some initial setbacks. —Agence France Presse and Reuters.

# Egypt cuts payments to Russia by £60m

From Edward Mortimer  
Cairo, Nov 3

Egyptian debt repayment to the Soviet Union will be reduced next year from £70m to £10m, the semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported today.

This appears to be the result of President Sadat's decision, announced last week, to suspend unilaterally Egypt's payments to the Soviet Union on military debts as from next year.

The payments have traditionally been made in kind, in the form of "unrequited trade," an excess of Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union over Soviet exports to Egypt. Some 35 per cent of Egypt's total exports to the Soviet Union took the form of cotton, valued at £68m this year.

In August President Sadat announced that Egypt would not export any more cotton to Russia in the new season, which began two weeks ago.

The cotton in question is high-quality long staple cotton, for which Egypt should have no difficulty in finding a hard-currency market. It appears therefore that the decision to default on her military debt will enable Egypt to avoid replacing the cotton with other exports or with hard-currency payments.

Mr Mikhail Sytenko, a Soviet deputy foreign minister, is expected in Cairo tomorrow for talks with Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. These are expected to deal both with bilateral issues and with the Middle East generally.

But Egypt appears to be serving notice that no dramatic improvement in relations between the two countries is to be expected. Although a return visit from Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in response to Mr Fahmy's visit to Moscow last June is still officially on the agenda, Mr Fahmy's remarks at that time about a possible meeting between President Sadat and President Brezhnev have not been followed up.

President Sadat himself returns tonight from Saudi Arabia, after two days of talks with Saudi leaders, said to deal with "the coordination of Arab strategy in the political and military fields to confront the obstacles which Israel places in the way of peace."

Egyptian optimism about the prospects for the Geneva conference appears to be waning fast, and this is reflected in the relatively hard-line statements made by Mr Fahmy in an interview.

Mr Fahmy is quoted as saying that if Israel persists in rejecting any participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Geneva talks will not be held, neither this year or any other year.

# Trend blamed for US withdrawal from International Labour Organization

# Growing concern over politicization of UN agencies

By Roger Berchoud

The decision of the United States to withdraw from the International Labour Organization (ILO)—a move which Mr Callaghan tried to avert—prompts the question: has the politicization of the United Nations' main agencies got worse?

This politicization is far from new, but it was one of the main reasons for the American decision. The general view of Britons involved in the agencies is that the ILO was a special case; that it is often far from easy to draw a line between "relevant" political issues and the special work of the agency concerned; and that in the past two years an attempt had been made to reduce the damage caused by the disruption of the Arab-Israeli dispute in these agencies since 1974.

The ILO is different because the representation of member states includes employers and workers, thus emphasizing the ideological divide between "Western democracies" and "Eastern" states, unions and employers, and the rest.

Mr Cyril Plast, former general secretary of the Independent Revenue Staff Federation, who has been on the governing body of the ILO since 1968 and is chairman of the

workers' group, confessed himself saddened and despondent over the American withdrawal. But he had considerable sympathy for the decision, believing that politicization had got worse.

The last straw for the United States, he believes, was the International Labour Conference last June. A coalition of the Soviet block, Arab countries and various dictators blocked the nomination of an American as vice-president and rejected an American-sponsored resolution to shift motions attacking member states without due investigation. Finally, it shelved consideration of reports on the condition of Arab workers in the West Bank, and on the failure of the Soviet Union, Argentina, Chile, Uganda and other countries to implement ILO conventions.

By contrast, Mr J. A. G. Coates, of the British employers' delegates to the ILO for the past three years, thought the high-water mark of politicization there had been in 1974, when the Arab-African group, with Soviet block support, strongly condemned Israel's treatment of Arab workers in the occupied territories. Since then, he believes, there has been a greater willingness to allow highly political issues to disappear.

"Perhaps there is less overt politics now, but it is still there below the surface. The ILO reflects the world as it is, and the world is riven by these questions," he said. He did not believe any organization would be reformed by withdrawal.

Perhaps the most politicized United Nations agency has been Unesco. "It's unpleasant. It's inevitable, and you have to keep it below the toxic level," commented Mr Richard Hoggan, Warden of Goldsmith's College and an assistant director-general at Unesco's Paris headquarters from 1970 to 1975.

In a book he has just delivered to his publishers (to be called *An Ideal and its Services*), he ruminates four main stages: the East-West polarization prompted by Soviet entry; the Korean war, when the United Nations tried to use the United States for its own ends; the arrival of the Africans and the developing world as a force; and the departure of South Africa; and, finally, the anti-Israel campaign of the Arabs, with Unesco as the first main target.

The Arabs skilfully chose as the main issues Israel's excavations in Jerusalem, which they claimed were destroying articles of great importance to non-Christians, and Arab education in occupied territories.

Both were perfectly valid Unesco concerns.

After two bitter years, the dispute was to some extent patched up in 1976, when Israel was admitted to the European regional group. The West enjoyed another small victory last November, when it secured the shelving of a Soviet-inspired declaration on state control of the media.

"The pressure is still there, but it has abated," Mr Hoggan believes. The tightrope must still be walked between Unesco's ideals and the pressures of the political world.

The World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva like the ILO, was for some time racked by the question of the membership of East Germany, which eventually joined in 1973. The Arab campaign against Israel there reached a bizarre climax last year, when a WHO report stating that health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza had generally improved under Israel's occupation, was voted to be "inadmissible".

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), based in Rome, has been spared such excesses, apart from the relatively routine question of observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Soviet Union does not belong, but

China and most East European countries do.

Naturally, developing countries lose no opportunity to push for a new international economic order there as elsewhere. But with down-to-earth agriculturalists in the ascendancy, the atmosphere is in the main friendly, and no unduly vexatious issues face the two yearly conference which begins on Saturday, officials say.

Mr Ben Whitaker, Director of the Minority Rights Group, believes that politicization is far from being totally rampant. The last meeting of the United Nations Human Rights subcommittee, on which the

British was one of the best, he said, with people looking at the situation in Uganda, Indonesia and Uruguay, for example, on the basis of the facts and not of political bias.

He believes that American big-stick diplomacy, with its periodic withholding of annual contributions, is counter-productive and plays into Soviet hands. "America pulling out is a tragedy. It damages the ILO, the WHO, and the United Nations and is one less articulate voice countering the politicizing of Arabs or Russians," he said. The Americans have, he believes, contributed to the politicization of the United Nations, rather than helped to reduce it.

# Dutch denounce Soviet suppression of rights

From Dossa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Nov 3

In one of the roughest denunciations of the violation of human rights in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia pronounced at the Belgrade conference reviewing the Helsinki agreement, Mr Joop van der Valk, head of the Dutch delegation, listed the misuse of psychiatry against political dissidents and suppression of religious freedom.

He also spoke of psychiatric clinics being used for treatment of people whose views were different from the official one.

The obligation to follow the government line of thinking, Mr van der Valk said, seemed to be a criterion for the application of the Helsinki records in some countries which had signed them.

He accused the Soviet Union of using a firm, restrictive hand against religious groups, discriminating against children in schools, hampering parents in their careers and arresting people just for their personal convictions.

Both the Dutch and the Belgians spoke of the Charter 77 movement in Czechoslovakia where thousands of citizens, it was said, were prevented from exercising their professions because their opinions differed from the official one.

Soviet Union: The Soviet group of Amnesty International appealed to Kremlin leaders to abolish capital punishment in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. The death penalty, described by the state as a "temporary measure for the defence of society," contradicted the ideals of the revolution, a spokesman said.

Paraguay: In an appeal to President Stroessner, the British section of Amnesty International asked him to mark his fifty-fifth birthday by releasing all prisoners of conscience. His country had a record of legal and democratic procedures which tended to mask serious violations of human rights, it said.

Argentina: Repressive measures against dissident writers are worst in Argentina, where 119 writers are in prison or have been "kidnapped," the international writers' association said. It said in New York. A year earlier it had reported that 471 writers were in prisons in 55 countries.

Chile: Britain has no intention of sending an ambassador back to Chile while the present regime lasts, according to a delegation from the Chile Solidarity Committee, which met Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, in London yesterday.

# Editor of Bhutto group paper held in custody

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, Nov 3

The editor of the Lahore edition of *Musawat*, an Urdu-language newspaper owned by Mr Bhutto, was arrested last night and remanded in custody until next week.

It was the second time that Mr Saad Badruddin had been arrested by the martial law authorities. On the last occasion, in July, he was released after a week. He was picked up yesterday outside his office and taken to a police station. He was produced to court before a martial law court which remanded him.

*Musawat* is one of two Urdu-language newspapers owned by Mr Bhutto and his family. The editor of the Karachi edition, Mr Ibrahim Jaleel, died of a brain haemorrhage last week shortly after the Army authorities closed it.

With its sister publications, *Hilal-e-Pakistan* and *Nusrat*, *Musawat* has faced difficulties

Athens floods: Twenty-six people, many of them children, were drowned in Athens and Piraeus on Wednesday night during a thunderstorm which caused severe flooding. In one case a woman and her three children were trapped in a car and drowned. There are fears that the death toll may rise.

Extensive damage was caused to buildings, roads and power stations. Cars, buses and lorries were hurled against walls or into ditches and large areas were left without electricity or telephones. Traffic was completely disrupted and in one suburb of Piraeus 200 cars were trapped by landslides.

The disaster area was visited yesterday by President Tsatsos while a ministerial meeting chaired by Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, declared a state of emergency. Army engineers joined the police and the fire brigade in rescue operations.

# Freed rebel will fight on for socialism

Colombo, Nov 3.—Mr Robena Wijeweera, 34-year-old revolutionary, was released yesterday after seven years in prison for leading an armed insurgency to overthrow the previous government, and pledged to continue the struggle to create a truly socialist system in Sri Lanka.

Mr Wijeweera was pardoned by the Government along with 135 comrades of his People's Liberation Front, which launched an armed attack on April 5, 1971, to overthrow the former government of Mrs Bandaranaike.

He had been sentenced to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment—Agence France-Presse.

# UN appeals to all nations to curb hijacking

New York, Nov 3.—The United Nations General Assembly today condemned the hijacking of aircraft and called on all states to improve airline and airport security.

Endorsing without a vote a resolution adopted on Tuesday by its special political committee, the Assembly appealed to all countries to adhere to three conventions designed to curb the activities of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), but so far ratified by only about half the 145 members of the United Nations.

The resolution called on all states to increase the exchange of information designed to foil hijackers and to take "joint and separate action" to ensure that passengers, crew and aircraft are not used as a means of extorting advantage.

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# Bombs hit railways

Buenos Aires, Nov 3.—Three bombs wrecked rail tracks and part of a suburban station here, but a week-long strike by transport workers appeared to be subsiding after the military Government took a tough line on pay negotiation.

Mrs Gandhi hurt  
Delhi, Nov 3.—Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, was slightly hurt when a right ear when demonstrators hurled stones. Karnataka state, southern India, Samachar news agency reported.

Tourist dies in plane  
Tel Aviv, Nov 3.—An American tourist, Mr. Carter, died after a heart attack on an El Al aircraft as it made an emergency landing at Belgrade airport because of a faulty compass system, the airline said.

Joe Louis operation  
Houston, Nov 3.—Joe Louis, aged 63, the former heavyweight boxing champion, had a heart operation and was later reported in good condition.

# Dr Goldman to retire as president of the World Jewish Congress

From William Frankel  
New York, Nov 3

Dr Nahum Goldman, who has announced his retirement from the presidency of the World Jewish Congress, is the last of great leaders produced by East European Jewry.

Born 83 years ago in the warmth and Jewish intensity of the Russian pale of settlement, Dr Goldman received his Jewish education there and in 1930 emigrated to Germany for university studies. He has doctorates in law and philosophy. A Zionist from childhood, he was already a member of the Zionist Action Committee at the age of 23. Thereafter his rise was swift, culminating in the presidency of the World Zionist Organisation.

In 1933 he left Germany for the United States, where he played a leading role in all Zionist developments and in the programme for the establishment of a Jewish state, though he has never lived in Israel.



Dr Goldman: Preeminent among Jewish leaders today.

While resident in America, Dr Goldman took a leading part in the internal organization of the Jewish community and was the founder and first president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. Till today the most important voice of American Jewry.

But perhaps his greatest achievement was his vision and diplomatic ability in proposing and negotiating the agreements under which the Federal German republic paid thousands of millions of marks to Israel

and Nazi survivors. Dr Goldman will remain president of the Jewish Claims Conference against Germany, the representative international Jewish body for this purpose, and of its offshoot, the Jewish Memorial Foundation.

Despite his retirement from the leadership of the WJC, there is little doubt that Dr Goldman's personality is still remarkable. Physical and international vigour and his world-wide friendships will ensure the continuance of his personal diplomacy for the Jewish people.

This will not altogether be to the liking of Israeli governments which have never relished the ideas of this independent one-man Jewish Foreign Office. But Dr Goldman has publicly aired ideas, generally dovish, and has privately far Arab and Soviet leaders despite the open hostility of Israeli leaders. Such hostility has never deterred him and indeed he sees himself as a sort of extra-territorial opposition to some Israeli attitudes.

Dr Goldman is not only the grand old man of world Jewry, he is also its philosopher and prophet. A cultured, urbane internationalist, he now is based in Paris though he travels widely. He enjoys music and the arts but perhaps most of all he enjoys acting as a gadfly. So long as his health allows he will remain the preeminent Jewish leader in the world today.

# Libya tries to help release Sahara hostages

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 3

Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, the Libyan Prime Minister, flew to Paris today for urgent talks with President Giscard d'Estaing on the fate of the French hostages held by the Polisario front in the Western Sahara.

Major Jalloud is Colonel Gaddafi's right-hand man and has been asked to make a close study of the affair.

Yesterday he was in Algiers where he had two meetings with President Boumedienne. He has already discussed the matter with Mr Guy Georgey, the director of the Quai d'Orsay's African Department, who flew to Tripoli on Tuesday to seek the help of the Libyan Government.

Colonel Gaddafi offered to mediate for the release of the hostages, just as he did successfully for the French archaeologist, Mue Francis Claude, who was held hostage for 33 months by the Tuab rebels in Chad. Since then he has sent Major Jalloud on a fact-finding mission to see how best to tackle the problem.

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# Corruption denied

Hongkong, Nov 3.—Thirty-four senior policemen, whose arrest on corruption charges led to police protests here, today pleaded not guilty to the accusations. Their trial was set for April 17.

Different quarters have tried different ways of dealing with this problem. Some have tried costly mass retraining projects; but even oil-rich states such as Nigeria cannot afford to do this on a suffi-

ciently large scale to resolve the problem. Others, like South Africa, have brought in bulldozers and simply swept the squatter camps out of sight. Many have been forced through lack of resources to do nothing.

Zambia, however, has adopted a more enlightened policy, particularly in Lusaka. Having realized that there were insufficient funds to provide everyone with even the most basic form of low-cost housing, the city council has embarked on a big project for upgrading and improving its squatter settlements. The cost is put at about £25m over a five-year period (half of it coming from the World Bank), which is a relatively small amount for the number of people who will benefit.

Zambia has experienced the problem of urban drift more than other black African countries. More than one third of the country's five million inhabitants live in urban areas, compared with only 12 per cent in Kenya. In Lusaka alone, the population rose by 326 per cent between independence in 1964 and 1974 when the upgrading project began.

By that year 37,000 families in the capital were living in shanty towns. Although it is Government policy to provide housing for everyone, the state could not possibly afford to do so. So an alternative had to be found.

The Government's attention was drawn to the work of an organization called Social Action in Lusaka, a voluntary association which had been working in squatter areas and had drawn up a plan for

# Third World report

From Our Special Correspondent  
Lusaka

Those of George  
Have made bricks,  
Bricks.  
They call 'em soil cement.  
Nice ones  
So thick and heavy  
So cheap  
So strong.  
Ooh for building a house  
Ooh for building a house.

The upgrading of squatter settlements may not seem an obvious subject for a pop song. Yet the song above is one of several on the theme of township improvement which can often be heard pulsing from among the dusty streets of Lusaka's sprawling shanty towns.

George is one of four large squatter townships which have sprung up round Lusaka since independence—a nondescript sprawl of huts and shacks interspersed with banana plants and badly-serviced dirt roads. About 55,000 people live in George. Altogether, nearly half the city's population of 500,000 live in shanty towns.

The development of urban slums is a problem facing all developing countries. There is hardly a city in Africa which is not surrounded by an unsightly maze of hastily-erected shacks thrown up by people who have left the land and trekked to the towns in search of work. Often the inhabitants have lived there for years.

Different quarters have tried different ways of dealing with this problem. Some have tried costly mass retraining projects; but even oil-rich states such as Nigeria cannot afford to do this on a suffi-

# Zambia upgrades its squatter settlement

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Zambia, however, has adopted a more enlightened policy, particularly in Lusaka. Having realized that there were insufficient funds to provide everyone with even the most basic form of low-cost housing, the city council has embarked on a big project for upgrading and improving its squatter settlements. The cost is put at about £25m over a five-year period (half of it coming from the World Bank), which is a relatively small amount for the number of people who will benefit.

Zambia has experienced the problem of urban drift more than other black African countries. More than one third of the country's five million inhabitants live in urban areas, compared with only 12 per cent in Kenya. In Lusaka alone, the population rose by 326 per cent between independence in 1964 and 1974 when the upgrading project began.

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SPORT

Racing

# Course and distance should help Andy Pandy assert superiority

By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent

The reappearance, after his summer's break, of the Whitehead Gold Cup winner, Andy Pandy, looks like being the highlight of the racing at Cheltenham today. The Cheltenham Steeplechase, which has been chosen by his trainer, Fred Rimell, as his first objective on a trail that will eventually lead to Ascot and a second crack at the Grand National.

Last March, Andy Pandy was going strongly in the lead at Liverpool when he knuckled over on landing over the first fence, the second circuit. Whether he would have won is anyone's guess. It happened to think that he would have done in spite of Red Rum's presence in the field, so well was he going at the time, but what is clear is that the race took nothing out of him.

Andy Pandy reappeared at Sandown Park three weeks later and won the Whitehead Gold Cup in a style that pleased the eye. Andy Pandy will be at a slight disadvantage today in that he has not had a race since his summer's break. Brocho II, Dawn Broker, My Friendly Cousin, and Churchtown Boy all have, but that may still not stop him from asserting his superiority once again on a course and over a distance that should suit him admirably.

Andy Pandy won his first race last season which would seem to suggest that he is a horse who comes to hand quickly. On this occasion his main stumbling block may well turn out to be My Friendly Cousin rather than Brocho II. My Friendly Cousin won his last race at Ascot easily and he has only a paperweight to carry this afternoon.

If Andy Pandy does manage to rise to the occasion, he could easily be the second of two winners for his trainer, and his jockey John Burke. Earlier the afternoon they appear to have an excellent chance of winning the Embassy Premier Steeplechase (qualifier) with Another Dolly, who won his first steeplechase in this country so fluently at Sandown Park a week ago.

Another Dolly used to be trained in Ireland and it was there that he caught Rimell's eye when he finished second at Punchestown in April. Apparently he was not lucky not to beat Billy Way that day, and Billy Way is no mean performer as he showed at Punchestown when he won his first race of the season by five lengths.

Filgrave and King Neptune both had some good form last season, but neither ran well enough in an identical race to this one at Ascot nine days ago to make me think that they will beat Andy Pandy this afternoon. On the other hand, Tree Tangle did run well enough behind Tingle Creek at Sandown Park last Saturday in what was his first race of the season to suggest that he certainly ought to win the Mickleton Steeplechase evened with 12 at on his back.

With John Francombe required at Doncaster to partner Midnight Court in the Baxter Gate Steeplechase, the ride on Another Dolly has been given to James Guest. Last season, Rathcormack bested Guest Prince when he won the Vase at Sandown Park at Haydock Park and Levanos when he won the Yellow Pages Hurdle at Kempton Park a week earlier and I fancy that he will prove too good for them both again. Gambling Prince has not run this season while Levanos is not the most dependable of horses as he showed all too clearly at Newbury recently when he refused to even start.

# Midnight Court to confirm promise

By Michael Seely

The 1977 flat racing season closes with the running of the William Hill November Handicap at Doncaster tomorrow. Sallcloth and Gale Bridge remain the best backed horses with all the leading bookmakers. However, the sponsors reported a more recent day for Gale Bridge's stable companion, Lucent, who was backed down from 16-1 to 10-1. Corral's on the other hand had a flood of money for Gale Bridge, who is now their joint favourite with Sallcloth. Ladbroke's reported further interest in Sallcloth and also in the top weight, Sea Pigeon.

It is a confused situation and a great deal must now depend on the weather. Strong winds were blowing across the Town Moor yesterday. The Doncaster turf is notoriously quick drying. I have a distinct feeling that we have not yet seen the best of Sea Pigeon despite his checked record. And if the rains keep away it is going to be hard to the most dependable of horses as he showed all too clearly at Newbury recently when he refused to even start.

The meeting opens this afternoon with a first class National Hunt racing programme at Doncaster. The Baxter Gate Steeplechase features a clash between Royal Marshal II, Fred Winter's promising young horse, Midnight Court and the Argentine-bred Casamayor, who landed out at Doncaster tomorrow. The seven-year-old has won at least six races in America and has twice finished second to that top class mare Life's Illusion.

Royal Marshal is one of the best steeplechasers in the country on his day. His important victories have included triumphs in the Hennessy Gold Cup and in the King George VI Steeplechase. But his career has been plagued by a tendency to break blood vessels and his appearances have been restricted to seven in the past two seasons.

I intend opposing both Royal Marshal and Casamayor with the Argentine-bred, Midnight Court. As a Newbury recently Midnight Court topped with the Bo-Waveil to beat him by 10 lengths. The seven-year-old has won at least six races in America and has twice finished second to that top class mare Life's Illusion.

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## Cheltenham NH programme

Television (BBC 2): 2.5, 2.40, 3.15 and 3.45 races

1.0 SOUTHAM OPPORTUNITY HURDLE (Handicap: £665: 2m 200yd)

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# Saving the Bellini for Britain

**David Lane**

**Drawing by Elizabeth Steven**

There is a dilemma, not easy to resolve. But there are also half a dozen buildings yet to fall on the other side of the street. Some of us with picture-windows overlooking the action are now thinking of renting space to our comrades on the blind side of the building. What do you suppose that implies?

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**Christopher Logue**

Hutton Garden jeweller, has to make the next move in a bid Lewis has already been ordered the 18-carat classic Islamic design, last earring purchased a £5,000 has been heard of him - or chairman of Hutton Garden old Moorish swastika, deposit. Anybody for





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## THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR

The three constitutional Bills will dominate the legislative business of Parliament this session. The other pieces of legislation mentioned in the Queen's Speech are of minor importance, will have to take their chance in the timetable, and can be deferred or dropped without much loss.

Ministers are confident that they have the devolution Bills sewn up this time. The disjunction of Scotland and Wales, the promised referendum, Liberal support for a guillotine, some improvement in the details of the Bills, the Prime Minister's almost credible threat to hang the fate of his Government on the passage of the Scottish Bill, and more weariness with the argument, should together afford the legislation an easier ride than it got last session. Progress on the European assembly Bill may not be so smooth, and a simple plurality in single-member constituencies must be considered, of the alternative voting systems offered, the more likely to find favour in the Commons. If so, the United Kingdom can hardly be ready for the advertised time of kick-off in May or June of next year. But it now appears that the Community's good name in the Commons will not suffer from that unpunctuality quite as much as was earlier supposed.

Differences about the soundness of these measures occur almost as much within the political parties as between them; and although they receive a wide measure of support they attract only specialized or localized enthusiasm. Most politicians feel less drawn towards them than propelled towards them. Propelled in the case of the European elections Bill, by its being implicit in the package which the United Kingdom bought on January 1, 1973; and in the case of the devolution Bills, by a belief, which may or may not be correct, that this is

the price which the political preferences of Scotsmen are able to exact for the continuation of the United Kingdom as a harmoniously functioning state (and that what Scotland is given Wales must be offered, or something like it); or alternatively, they are propelled by an even more urgent belief that nothing less than this grant of autonomy can save the Labour Party's bacon in Scotland at the next general election.

These three measures are indeed of great constitutional import and their passage will permanently affect, in ways which have been very little explored, the position of the Parliament at Westminster. The European elections Bill contains an implied displacement of democratic authority from Westminster to the new assembly, and it is not at all clear how the roles of home-based MPs and the occupants of the new mega-seats are to be conceived, as relating to each other in connection with the policies and instruments flowing from Brussels. The devolution Bills import an asymmetry into the House of Commons, which will become quasi-federal in respect of Scotland and Wales and remain unitary in respect of England. Perhaps the British constitution's traditional indifference to schematism and logic will assist its adaptation to the new condition; but Parliament has not yet really inspected the consequences of that transformation. There is much of a fundamental character still to be examined in these measures, guillotine permitting.

If legislation were all, Parliament would be preoccupied throughout the next twelve months with the principles and niceties of constitutional reform in a not particularly partisan way. But legislation is very far from being all. Off-stage events will be adding their own meaning to that pregnant piece of

TUC-speak "an orderly return to free collective bargaining". If there was any doubt that this year's wage round will stay at the heart of political affairs, it ought to have been removed by the immediate effect upon confidence of the miners' ballot. The effect has shown up first in the market for stocks and shares and the movement of sterling. It will not be confined to those sensitive exchanges. The attitude of the miners and what follows from it in their own industry and others impinge on political confidence, among ministers, in the Opposition, and in the electorate. The Government has been lifted out of the electoral mud in the space of nine months by a process resembling levitation. It could be dropped in again with a thud.

Among the elements in its recovery have been grounds for hope that the rate of inflation really is going to go on going down, slight mitigation of the tax regime skillfully presented to create the impression of more to come, a real transformation in the external financial position of the country, an aura of Baldwin-esque solidity and sense diffused by the Prime Minister, and a wish to believe that the special Callaghan mixture of camaraderie, coercion and cunning can moderate the inordinate wage demands now associated with "free collective bargaining" without either provoking serious industrial unrest or rotting society by inflation. If events this winter rob people of the comfortable belief, little will remain of that political picture. The Liberals are more likely to break with the Government over wage inflation than over whatever does not happen about proportional representation. And apart from that, so serious a setback to his economic and political strategy might persuade the Prime Minister to run for an earlier dissolution of Parliament than he evidently contemplates as the session opens.

## MOSCOW SILENCES A WESTERN DISSIDENT

For their sixtieth anniversary celebrations in Moscow the Soviet leaders obviously want a display of confidence in their own achievement, of assurance in the victorious character of their doctrine and, so far as the delegations from other communist parties can demonstrate it, the obedience that can still be given to Moscow as the centre of a living, international movement. Such reassurance is particularly welcome to leaders whose memory and allegiance runs far back to the early days when the flag of proletarian dictatorship was first hoisted. They know that this is the last important anniversary they will attend; they badly need the right kind of acclaim.

From some visitors they had this in full measure. Herr Herbert Mies of the West German party was ready to declare that their attitude to the Soviet Union was for every communist the touchstone, nothing would make his party change that view, neither right-wing opportunists nor Maoists. To men who contained the Yugoslav dissidence, who could dismiss Albania as too trifling and

odd to matter, and who have come through the struggle with China to find Peking's own internationalism following far smaller and less significant than their own, this was indeed warming stuff. And there were many others to take up their allotted seven minutes of time to render their homage to the capital of world communism.

Alas! that the occasion could not pass without black clouds passing over the meeting. There was Signor Berlinguer from Italy quietly and pointedly to make the case for democracy as a source of power and for cooperation with non-communist parties. Reservations came also from the British party and that, too, met with a cool reception from the ranks of the presidium. But it was Señor Santiago Carrillo from Spain, the most pungent spokesman for Eurocommunism, who was too much for the Soviet leaders. Having handed in a copy of his speech for translation on his arrival in Moscow on Wednesday he was told he would not be called, although, as he pointed out, leaders of tiny parties of no significance at all were

given their share at the rostrum.

If anything could confirm the underlying loss of confidence in the leadership it would be this crude refusal of an expected courtesy to Señor Carrillo. He is a man who protests his faithfulness to communist ideals, who is no stranger to communist gatherings in Moscow—he attended the fiftieth anniversary celebrations in Leningrad in 1967—and has no point to argue that has not been argued already by the Italian party. Certainly Señor Carrillo believes that his view of the communist role is one appropriate to all communist parties in western Europe and no doubt he thinks that they will be the more successful when they all share it. But Mr Brezhnev clearly fears that it is in eastern Europe as well as western that the ruling parties will more and more come to favour Señor Carrillo's message. And so Señor Carrillo had to be silenced. It is the only way of dealing with critics known to Moscow. It exposes the weakness of the Soviet leaders on an occasion when they were anxious to conceal any such thing.

## HANDOUTS FOR HOME BUYERS

It is usually a good thing for the major parties to see housing issues in broadly the same way: sudden lurches of policy at each change of power do more harm than good in a market whose natural rhythms are so slow. But it is not so good if it means that parties vie with one another to catch the votes of those who do best out of the current system, or aspire to join their number. One measure outlined in the Queen's Speech yesterday came close to falling into the second category. The Conservatives have for some time favoured public assistance to those wishing to buy homes, but unable to stand on their own feet. A policy document last year suggested a pound contributed for every two pounds saved by some first-time buyers towards their deposits.

Such measures would be popular, and helpful too, at least in the short term. But there has been too much official action in the housing sphere that set

out to help one category of householder, but turned out to cause new distortions in the wider pattern of housing provision. Similar initiatives deserve to be treated warily. The general tendency of such policies (like the growth of indiscriminate subsidy to council tenants in the 1970s, and the earlier attempts to keep mortgage interest rates down) have had the effect of assisting those who are already satisfactorily housed at the expense of those who are not.

To some extent the new plan can claim to compensate for that tendency. The boom in house prices in the late 'sixties made it far more difficult for new buyers to enter the market; existing owners were able to afford the higher prices because their own houses had shared in the general appreciation. When house prices became steadier, inflation and high interest rates kept the initial cost of taking on a mortgage high (owners, again, found the real cost of

their repayments rapidly diminishing). The initial obstacles to new buyers, especially those who would be purchasers who could confidently expect to increase their earnings in a few years.

Since it is in general both popular and desirable that more people should own their own homes, it may seem an excellent move to give newcomers a leg up. But when the high rate of subsidy (almost impossible to withdraw once bestowed) creates a serious problem in both public and private sectors, another subsidy may ease the symptom while making the disease worse. Assistance of the kind proposed must be carefully restricted if it is not simply to raise the price of the kind of house that new buyers look for. All the difficulties mentioned have not prevented the proportion of owner-occupied houses from rising between 1971 and 1976 from 52 per cent to about 55 per cent—a rapid advance in the circumstances.

## Security of Israel

From Mr A. P. Warshaw  
Sir, I am a Zionist and Jew privileged to have lived in Israel for some years. I had the opportunity of making close friends with a number of Palestinians and like Mr Hamman (The Times, November 1) believe that peace and hence Israel's security will only be achieved when the Palestinians are given a state of their own on the West Bank and Gaza (with special arrangements being made to prevent the re-distribution of Jerusalem). However, can Mr Hamman assure me that such a state will forever terrorism and all territorial ambitions in pre-1967 Israel, and be prepared to demonstrate this by agreeing to remain demilitarized?  
Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY WARSHAW,  
9 Hockford Road, NW2,  
November 1.

## Charges against Mr Helms

From Lord George Brown  
Sir, The column you printed on Wednesday (November 2) from Patrick Brogan, your Correspondent in Washington, on the question of Mr Richard Helms and the court proceedings against him, greatly disturbed me.  
Mr Helms, both as Director of the CIA and more recently as US Ambassador to Iran, has had a career as a public servant of which both he and his country should be greatly proud. That it should have ended this way, I know, greatly distressing to him as it is to those of us who knew his work and greatly valued his friendship.  
More important, perhaps, the whole matter of the harassment, hounding and final criminal prosecution of such a public servant is worthy of much more mature consideration than Senator Church in Mr Brogan's quotation, or indeed your Correspondent himself in his final paragraph, seem to have given time and thought to.

Having carried for a short while my share of the political responsibility for this country's "secret" operations, I was always clear that any questioning arose on them I or the Prime Minister would answer. The idea that one of my officers should be summoned and expected to "blow the gaff" on such necessarily highly political issues, would never have been accepted by me nor expected of them. They answered to and acted upon the decisions of their Political Masters at all times.

If what the CIA did was held to be wrong or needed investigation, those politically responsible should have answered. And then Mr Helms would never have been placed in a "position of conflict", as he put it to the court. In my view, once he was so placed, he had little alternative but to do as he did—as any responsible Senator must have realised.  
Sincerely,  
GEORGE BROWN,  
House of Lords,  
November 2.

## Unmarried women and the property laws

From Mr Tom Kay  
Sir, We are writing to express our concern over the recent decisions of B v B, The Times Law Reports, October 13, 1977, and Cardiff v Jenkins (October 24), which we consider have substantially undermined the intentions of the Domestic Violence Act 1976 in denying an unmarried woman the ability to obtain an order that her cohabitee should leave the home that they are sharing in, if the property is either in his sole name or in their joint names. A married woman in this position would be able to apply for an order.

We have substantial experience of dealing with a large number of cases of domestic violence and work closely with a women's aid refuge. We also submitted evidence to the Select Committee on violence in marriage in 1975 on the basis of our experience in this area of law. We have dealt with many cases involving unmarried women in this position and are aware of the hardship that they suffer and the sense of injustice that they experience parties in western Europe and no doubt he thinks that they will be the more successful when they all share it. But Mr Brezhnev clearly fears that it is in eastern Europe as well as western that the ruling parties will more and more come to favour Señor Carrillo's message. And so Señor Carrillo had to be silenced. It is the only way of dealing with critics known to Moscow. It exposes the weakness of the Soviet leaders on an occasion when they were anxious to conceal any such thing.

We consider that the whole area of property law as it affects unmarried women and their families is in a very unsatisfactory state. It denies an unmarried woman, who shares the same responsibilities and difficulties as her married counterpart, virtually any means of legal protection or redress for herself against her cohabitee and/or father of her children in spite of the fact that her relationship may have been a lengthy one.

We consider that the position of the unmarried battered woman is one particularly unfortunate symptom of the general inadequacy of legal rights and protection afforded to women in this area of law. We sincerely hope that the two recent Domestic Violence Act decisions will highlight the need for urgent reform of the whole area of law affecting the property rights of the unmarried woman, including the denial of protection to battered women whose home is not in their sole name.  
Yours faithfully,  
TOM KAY, Chairman,  
Camden Community Law Centre,  
146 Kentish Town Road, NW1,  
October 26.

## Church on the move

From Mr Gregory Macdonald  
Sir, Cardinal Rume has returned from the fifth Roman synod—the subject of discussion was Christian education—to propound in The Times (October 29) a contemporary insight that the Church is best likened to the tent of a nomad Abraham. It is on the move, pitched at different spots as the search for God and his promises goes on. Every few years the pilgrim Church pauses in the synod to take stock of where it is going.

The inescapable meaning of this Old Testament imagery is that in the view of His Eminence the Roman Church no longer invokes the Petrine title-deed that it is built upon a rock: it is a tent of one night pitched upon shifting sands. The Church is no longer the infallible guardian of revelation, with divine authority to teach all nations. It is no longer a visible society with distinctive marks by which men may know it, but a nomad people searching for landmarks in a desert.

This is indeed a fresh insight, a new perspective on nearly two thousand years of Christian history. Perhaps the difficulty will be to embody it in a scheme of religious education which also takes the New Testament into account and the unchanged belief of the Catholic faithful.  
Nora, etc.,  
GREGORY MACDONALD,  
76 Connaught Hill,  
Wimbledon, SW20,  
October 31.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Disruption of power supplies

From Professor G. P. C. Butler  
Sir, Unannounced power cuts are bound to cause damage, to people and to property. It is to be hoped that a tally is being kept—of the limbs broken, the cars smashed, the lives which might have lasted longer than they did, the homes that have been completed, those responsible for the damage will acknowledge their responsibility. Or perhaps, in the jargon of present-day ruthlessness, they would prefer to "claim" it?  
Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY BUTLER,  
10 Brock Street,  
Bath,  
Avon,  
November 1.

### Religious education

From Mr J. B. S. Swallow  
Sir, I have just returned from the Oxford area where I was unable to receive radiotherapy for various cancers on one day this week because of voltage reductions in the electricity supply. There is a heavy burden of responsibility upon those who make the decision to work to rule.  
Yours faithfully,  
J. B. S. SWALLOW,  
11 B. S. SWALLOW,  
4 Palace Court, W2,  
November 1.

### British-German links

From Mr Max Adenauer and others  
Sir, We are citizens of one of the countries which found least favour with the Think Tank in its review of overseas representation, so far as cultural relations are concerned. Since we live in the region of Cologne, where the British Council has its German headquarters, we hope that our views may help prevent a misjudgment being enacted. Cultural relations are one of the most important instruments for that furtherance of understanding between peoples, which is the best guarantee of world peace. Britain and Germany, with two wars as their common heritage within living memory, have every reason to appreciate this. The fact that relations between our two countries are now so harmonious is due not to political and economic bonds but also to the interflow of knowledge in the sciences, the arts, scholarship, education and contemporary awareness, which is the task of the British Council to promote. The English language is a vital asset to Britain: in the Federal Republic 80 per cent of the school children learn English. This produces an interest in British life, achievements and exports which is of inestimable value.  
We have been able to observe the work of the British Council at first-hand over many years, and it is our conviction that it realises a

standard of excellence, which is not only highly creditable, but also of direct financial value to Britain. We, as friends of your country, would find it deplorable if the long-term benefits flowing from lively cultural and educational relations were to be sacrificed for the sake of short-term political assessments, arrived at from a standpoint of current self-bellum. We see British destiny as being greater than this, and we see the relations with Germany and other countries as crucial to it.  
Yours faithfully,  
MAX ADENAUER,  
Member of the Board of Directors of the Rhein, West, Bodencreditbank and former Town Clerk of Cologne.  
MARTIN MUCK,  
Director General of the (German) Sciences Centre, Bonn,  
UDO KLAUSA,  
President of the German Association for Europa Nostra and former Director General of the Rhine-Ruhr Region.  
WILHELM UNGER,  
Chairman of the Cologne Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and Cult. Editor of the Kölnner Stadt-anzeiger.  
MADY PREIFRAU v. SCHILLING,  
Secretary General and Member of the Board of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft e. V. Cologne, Klarenbachstr. 152, 5000 Cologne.

From Mrs Sinclair Hood  
Sir, I wonder if it is generally known that some patients in the Oxford area were unable to receive radiotherapy for various cancers on one day this week because of voltage reductions in the electricity supply. There is a heavy burden of responsibility upon those who make the decision to work to rule.  
Yours faithfully,  
RACHEL HOOD,  
The Old Vicarage,  
Great Milton,  
Oxford,  
November 2.

From Mr Ivor Powell  
Sir, Anybody trying to teach any sort of religion in a London comprehensive school does not require guidance so much as deserves the deep compassion of all of us.  
I have taught RE. I can assure you that the only lessons meeting with approval are those dealing in the wider aspects of the supernatural, daemonology, human sacrifice.  
If the attention of the reader is drawn to other truth is not fixed, the teacher may expect (as happened regularly to a reverend gentleman in West London) to have to flee the classroom in a hail of Bibles.  
One can only tell us something about the contemporary spiritual climate? More, perhaps, than the academic speculations of educators who remain lost in the rainbow mist of post-Renaissance optimism about the human condition!  
Yours truly,  
IVOR POWELL,  
256 Ben Jonson House,  
Barbican, EC2.

From Mr Arthur Grogan  
Sir, Today's letter (November 1) from the President of the Royal Academy reminds me that that gentleman's body of work, consisting of "diploma" pictures, painted by academicians, which used to be shown on the top floor of Burlington House.

Are these pictures so bad in quality or in condition that the Academy is ashamed for them to be seen? Might they not be just the thing for Somerset House, that is historically connected with the building, of relatively limited appeal as they would draw manageable crowds, and of limited worth so that if they go on in smoke the loss won't be too great? Might the Academy also consider returning the Chimmey-piece by Wilton and the ceiling paintings by Angelica Kauffman, I think, which were removed from Somerset House a century ago?  
Yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR GROGAN,  
Standon,  
East Grinstead, Sussex,  
November 1.

From Mr John Piper, CH, and others  
Sir, We understand that during the coming winter session Lord Kennet is to raise in the House of Lords the increasing problem of the Ridgeway as a whole. We would like to stress the singular beauty of the Ridgeway and emphasise that the preservation of its setting is essential to the endurance of its beauty, quite apart from its archaeological significance.  
The Ridgeway may once have stretched from Devon to the Wash. It is older than the Via Appia and its monuments encompass more civilisations. It is a document of the early history of England that cannot be moved to library, museum or gallery. The White Horse, half way along its course and inseparable from it is vernal and timeless, and as indigenous yet international as the Celts themselves. Dare we hope that the ingenuity and good will of landowners and public authorities can between them preserve its sense of solitude without restricting reasonable access for an increasingly sympathetic public?  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PIPER,  
HUGH CASSON,  
ESHER,  
GEOFFREY JELICOE,  
HENRY MOORE,  
BEN NICHOLSON,  
KENNETH ROBINSON,  
Favley Bottom Farmhouse,  
near Hanley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire.

## Uffington White Horse

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BEN NICHOLSON,  
KENNETH ROBINSON,  
Favley Bottom Farmhouse,  
near Hanley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire.

## Coeducational schools

From the Head Master of Dauntsey's School  
Sir, As in the far-flung fringes of Suffolk, parliamentary legislation is taken pretty seriously in the depths of Wilshire, and, like the headmaster of Framlingham College (who, appropriately, was once on the staff here) I too, am the proud possessor of a Transitional Exemption Order.  
However, the Equal Opportunities Commission does not have a monopoly of these apparently rare documents, and HMC Direct Grants schools such as Dauntsey's on the road to coeducational independence have to apply to the Secretary of State as the Department of Education and Science. But it takes time.  
Since the school was to become coeducational in September 1976, an application for a Transitional Exemption Order was made a fort-

nigh after the DES Joint Circular on the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 was published on January 20, 1976. What I took to be a mystified silence ensued until April 6 when a short note from the department informed me that "we are not able to reply to your letter, but we hope to be able to do so soon". The girls duly arrived in September 1976 and we struggled on without the Transitional Exemption Order until it arrived on February 23, 1977—one year and 18 days after my original application!

Perhaps other schools would like to stand up with Framlingham and Dauntsey's but they are still bent double in a pretty lengthy pipeline.  
Yours faithfully,  
G. E. KING-REYNOLDS,  
Head Master,  
Dauntsey's School,  
West Wootton,  
near Devizes, Wiltshire.







## Foreign Report

## Why the Argentine navy put a shot across the Soviet Union's bows

Only one seaman's leg was smashed, and later repaired by surgeons, when the Argentine navy so dramatically shelled unarmoured Soviet block trawlers in the South Atlantic last month. A message of nearly 200 Bulgarian sailors was happily avoided.

But in the words of the iron duke, it was a damn close run thing, and informed sources report that the navy has since been quietly ordered not to embark on such adventures without express approval from the army and the air force.

The luckless seaman was aboard a Bulgarian trawler, the *Ofelia*, when it scised three direct hits from the destroyer *Py* in pre-dawn darkness on October 1.

Nestor Ivanov Tulev was patched up aboard Argentina's only aircraft carrier, and a famously nationalistic newspaper here reported the surgical operation under the headline "Argentine blood for red sailor".

The loss of three Argentine petty officers, however, when a navy launch applied was headlined: "Sea embraces her enemies".

But such pride and flippancy greeting Argentina's first serious naval action since the 1955 near-bombardment of a local city (during a revolt against General Juan Peron) can scarcely hide the gravity of shelling defenceless trawlers in peacetime.

The action may prove costly. The Soviet Union was Argentina's biggest trading customer last year, and a 27-nan trade mission arrived in Moscow even as Soviet ships were being threatened in the South Atlantic. The price Argentina will have to pay remains to be seen.

Between September 22 and October 1, 15 navy arrested seven Soviet and two Bulgarian trawlers allegedly poaching in its 200-mile maritime zone. Two trawlers surrendered quickly, five others after warning salutes, and two were shelled trying to run for it.

Few naves, probably, would so widely open fire, even if the trawlers had ignored repeated warning shots and signals to halt. Since Argentina's navy considered efficient by Western military standards, there is no reason to suspect that it precipitately resorted to gunfire after being outmanoeuvred by the Soviet skippers.

One wonders, therefore, what would open if another fishing fleet arrived off Patagonia guarded by Soviet cruisers or a patrol of Argentina's second-hand aircraft carrier, two cruisers, 10 destroyers, six minesweepers, four submarines and 60 fleet aircraft.

For Argentina does seem to have

trampled on the unwritten rules of fishery disputes. After all, during the protracted "cod war" Icelandic gunboats fired barely a shot against British trawlers escorted by the Royal Navy.

But the Argentine navy never stopped to cut the Soviet nets as it charged through the night issuing peremptory orders to halt and opening up with warning cannonades.

Even if defence of fabulous unexploited fishing beds was at stake—and Patagonian waters could yield an estimated 3.5 million tons annually worth \$500m—the action appears impulsive.

Perhaps, after Argentina's years of decline, the military junta considered diplomatic and commercial considerations secondary to vigorous defence of national sovereignty.

It was Admiral Emilio Massera, navy commander and Junta member, who gave the order to sink the Bulgarian trawlers if necessary, "because the defence of our sovereignty is at stake".

Sensibly, the first salvoes hit the fleeing trawlers with non-high-explosive shells, which simply punched five-inch holes in their sides. But the next high explosive shells were already in the Argentine guns, and a navy jet laden with missiles was revving up on the nearby aircraft carrier 425 De Mayo.

Since the trawlers *Aurelia*, 3,500 tons, and *Ofelia*, 2,500 tons, probably carried nearly 100 men each, it seems that a maritime massacre was narrowly averted. A howling Atlantic storm would have made rescuing survivors extremely difficult.

Argentina's naval commanders are not usually considered impulsive, so their present fighting mood may hold a message for other countries with pretensions in the South Atlantic. Of the two combatants, Chile seems the principal target following Britain's recent agreement to discuss Argentina's claim to the disputed Falkland Islands.

It may prove significant that the shelling occurred precisely as waves of Argentine commandos backed by several gunboats, submarines, helicopters and jets stormed on to a near by South Atlantic island in a major amphibious exercise.

Perhaps the Soviet block trawlers were expressing undue interest in the exercise, but they may have just blundered into an Argentine task force hyped up to practise for a do-or-die mission.

For the navy is thought to be incensed with its Chilean counterpart over three disputed South Atlantic islands off Tierra del Fuego, and Argentina's belligerent naval actions and its preparations for amphibious



Admiral Emilio Massera: "sink the trawlers if necessary."

be in the offing.

Since a British arbitration court last April awarded the islands back to Chile, the Argentine navy has apparently been claiming, for the first time, the right to a 200-mile zone in Atlantic waters hitherto controlled by Argentina.

Mutual protest notes have been flying over alleged naval intrusions off the three islands, and Argentina may well refuse to accept the Chilean award. Probably to the navy's delight, powerful pressure groups here are urging such refusal on the government.

Argentina's belligerent naval actions and its preparations for amphibious

landings on South Atlantic islands thus acquire an obvious and ominous significance.

Though the Buenos Aires evening newspaper *Crónica* is often caustic in its extreme nationalism, it may have spelled out the message to Chile this week. It quoted an Argentine marine as saying during the amphibious exercise that "strange things are happening these days. It seems there are people who think we are going to let them steal our territory... but we have discussions with our officers. We study a lot, and we know what we have to fight and die for."

Andrew Tarnowski

## Why Israel's migrant Arabs distrust their hosts

Arabs from occupied territories employed steadily in Israel factories are by no means warmed to the Jewish State.

This conclusion was reached by a Bar-Ilan University team after a five-year study commissioned by an Israeli official body which may not be identified. Professor Yehuda Amir, a psychologist who led the study, said the immigrants received the report with some surprise and disappointment.

He said the finding challenged a basic Israeli policy: "The study shows no support for the naive assumption that we will take its course and if only we Israelis and Arabs will live together, the Arabs after a time will come to accept the situation and change their attitude in a positive direction."

The psychologist said the finding did not have surprised anyone taking into account the initially hostile attitude of the Arabs towards Israel. "If someone hates your guts, living with him will make it worse," he remarked. "If a husband and wife can't stand each other, maybe separate bedrooms will save the marriage."

But the reaction among responsible Israelis concerned with Arab affairs differed. "The past ten years demonstrated that Israelis and Arabs can live together," they said. "We never lulled ourselves that the Arabs would love us."

Some 50,000 Arabs have been crossing the former armistice lines from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to work in Israel daily in construction, agriculture, industry and services. The Bar-Ilan study focused on approximately 60 workers in factories and garages who worked side by side with Israelis the same enterprise for a year or more.

The researchers did not question the use of directly employed Arab labour, but candid opinions. They brought them small groups to the Bar-Ilan campus where they were interviewed and asked them to supply captions for a series of pictures showing Arab villagers crossing Israeli workers installing electric power lines in their village. The comments were all negative.

"It's a Zionist company and they're concerned with Zionist interests," was a typical remark.

Many conceded the villages would benefit but they said the Israelis' motives were to tighten their political hold on the territory and their economic gain. "The Jews want to supply electricity so they can sell us refrigerators, TV sets and washing machines and charge us for the current," a worker commented.

Low opinions of Israeli morality were elicited by a drawing showing Arabs coming upon Israeli families on the seashore. "The bathers were modestly clad by modern western standards but the Arabs expressed disgust."

"Look at those harlots," one said. "Let's get out of here." Another remarked: "Bathing shamelessly with women without clothes! Allah will never forgive them. I'd slit the throat of any who would bathe like them."

Some of the younger Arabs were more tolerant. "They have their customs and we have ours," was typical of this group, while a few were self-critical. One comment was: "All over the world people swim like that but the Arabs are primitive and reject it because of blind religious fanaticism."

Professor Amir said the interaction in the factories had on the whole reinforced Arab prejudices. They were more convinced than ever that the Israelis were expansionist and wanted to annex their territories. While they appreciated their pay and their treatment were better than in their homes, they felt the Israelis were motivated by their own interests and did not deserve gratitude.

Yet the psychologist said the attitudes could be improved somewhat if foremen, shop stewards and others in lower management positions were properly instructed.

He said the strongest criticisms in the study came from workers in a plant where management, with good intentions but lack of sensitivity, called the workers by numbers. "There were so many Ahmad and Muhammads," it was explained.

The Arabs who were somewhat more positively inclined came from plants where they were offered breaks to pray five times a day as required by Muslim law and were invited to company outings.

But Professor Amir said these extremes are not significant statistically.

Moshe Brilliant

## Advertising the Soviet way of life

Upright Soviet citizens reared on pure proletarian propaganda provided by the mass media are being faced with a growing barrage of advertising slogans and promotional exercises.

Although the advertisements appearing in the press are inserted mostly by factories, public bodies and institutions, the products they are marketing are neither aesthetically very beautiful nor spiritually uplifting, as desired by the code of conduct laid down by the founding fathers of communism.

They are promoting available goods and products and in a society still struggling to fulfil basic demands this is creating a qualitative change in the people's—and official's—attitude to advertising.

The pages of *Pravda* and *Izvestia* are still untroubled by invasions to chew gum, seen in the bad old days of Stalin as an exercise in criminality wasting the proletariat's muscular energy, but there are alternative forums for selling and buying and other commercial transactions.

The provincial press and the local radio stations have for some time now been allocating space to commercial announcements, and these radio also devote daily half-hour programmes to the availability of merchandise in the local department stores and vacancies in factories and offices.

For the private citizens hesitantly entering an incipient consumer society the Moscow evening newspaper *Vechernaya Moskva* provides a sales mart. It publishes an eight-page "advertising supplement" twice weekly costing 5 kopeks, and its "For Sale" and "Sought" columns are avidly read by Muscovites.

These advertising supplements offer an insight into the interests and problems of average Soviet citizens and the "Obo vsem" (Everything) section is a true gold mine for students of the Soviet way of life.

An analysis of a recent number shows that child-minders and nannies are in

great demand and that the majority of advertisers are seeking country cottages (dachas); the better off want dachas with an orchard, the rest seem content in buying a share in or half of a dacha.

Collectors offer "good money" for Soviet coins which are apparently in great demand, and Mosfilm Studio wants urgently dinner jackets, top hats, fans, ladies' hats with feathers and 1930s clothing for a forthcoming film.

The interest in musical instruments is only surpassed by the demand for Western stereo equipment and Japanese motorcycles. Second-hand furniture and second-hand fridges feature in several columns showing that the growing demand for consumer goods cannot be met by Soviet industry as yet.

The "Barter" column is filled with offers from owners of smaller flats seeking more spacious abodes, but there are not many offered either for sale or for exchange.

In the "Tuition" column a lady offers to teach you English "in a very short space of time" and a multi-lingual Muscovite offers tuition in Japanese, Polish and German.

What is conspicuously missing is the "Lonely Hearts" column. Neither the supplements nor the provincial press seem prepared to establish a marriage mart along Western lines, but an experiment in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the organ of the official writers' union, has recently shown the tremendous interest in such a forum.

"Educated humanist aged 48 seeks the acquaintance of young blonde interested in classical music," read one of the inserts in the weekly and elicited hundreds of replies.

"Tall Russian woman technical construction worker, aged 32, with a small child would like to meet a jovial, athletic man who does not drink alcohol," said another advertiser, indicating that not even the class-conscious workers consider advertising for a mate in a "Lonely Hearts" column a sure sign of bourgeois decadence.

But then advertising is no longer a dirty word in Russia.

Gabriel Ronay

## When a voice stays lost

Guinness and tonic, says the man at the skin sounds as if he has a cold: but no one takes notice. Mr. Galtton does advertise the fact that his nose has been removed because of cancer, and that his drink helps him to maintain his speech, which now flows from an intermittent flow from the stomach. This reference means, however, that the quiet success of oesophageal speech is known except to the family concerned.

Removal of the larynx is vital for the cure of most of laryngeal cancer, but fortunately once the carcinoma has been removed lungs can no longer be affected to the mouth: a new

opening has to be made in the skin of the throat, and the patient breathes through this tracheostomy (usually hidden behind a scarf or collar). The loss of normal speech is not so much due to the removal of the vocal chords as to the lack of any air stream for the mouth and tongue to modify. This is an alarming prospect for any one, and, indeed, typically a clinic will be asked to come to terms with a diagnosis of cancer as well as the total loss of normal speech. Whenever possible, however, he will be admitted a day or so ahead of the operation and so will have time to meet the speech therapist who will teach him to speak again afterwards. He will try to arrange for him to talk to an experienced laryngologist—someone who has

had the operation, has mastered oesophageal speech, and is living proof that speech is possible without a larynx.

Oesophageal speech relies on a flow of air from the stomach rather than from the lungs, but the function of the lips, tongue, and palate is unchanged. Success depends on learning to swallow and regurgitate air and in controlling the volume and speed of the air flow, and this requires training and patience. Naturally enough, early attempts tend to sound unnatural and bizarre, and it is for that reason that hospitals encourage patients to join laryngectomy clubs where they will find others with longer experience of the practical problems of oesophageal speech. Often meeting patients who have succeeded in learning the technique provides the necessary encouragement for someone in a mood of post-

operative depression. "Just mixing with other people who understand is a great boost to morale," says Mr. Galtton, "and it's very encouraging to meet the experts who had their operations many years ago and have perfected their speech." Two years after his own operation at St. George's Hospital, London, he is back at work serving in a shop, and he finds no difficulties in everyday life. The only limiting factor on his new voice is volume: there is no way oesophageal speech can produce a shout, so that conversation can be difficult in crowded places. Occasionally children on a bus will make fun of his flat, almost robot tone, but otherwise people are tolerant and friendly.

Laryngeal cancer is rare—and, unlike lung cancer, there is no sign that it is becoming more common. There are about 1,500 new cases each year in

Britain, mostly in men in their 60s or 70s, but with a few women and younger men affected. The prognosis for cure is best with early diagnosis, and very small tumours on the vocal cords can be cured with near certainty by radiotherapy alone. More often, however, by the time the cause of persistent hoarseness has been found to be laryngeal cancer there is no alternative to surgical treatment. At one time this radical operation left patients mute and depressed. Now, with oesophageal speech, they can look forward to a complete return to normal life. Further information on laryngectomy and laryngectomy clubs is available from the Laryngectomy Association, 38 Eccleston Square, Victoria, London, SW1.

Dr Tony Smith  
Medical Correspondent

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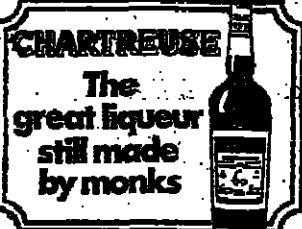
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. § Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 21  
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## Growing fears of industrial unrest drive share prices down for ninth day

By Our Financial Staff

For the ninth day running share prices fell back on the London stock market as big and small investors sold heavily on the prospect of a winter of industrial unrest.

The FT ordinary share index lost another 45 points, or around 9 per cent, since Monday of last week, with almost half that decline coming since the news of the market vote against a productivity deal.

Sterling's sudden plunge hit the government bond market, and though selling was not reported to be heavy it was not enough to lower long-term issues by as much as £2.50 at one stage. Some "cheap" buying late in the day lifted prices a little and by the close the average fall was about £2.00.

The equity market is now in the ambivalent position of attracting selling when sterling goes up or down. Many investors view the prospect of a strong pound with some trepidation since as they fear the impact on the major exporters against a none-too-promising outlook for corporate profits in general.

Against this a fall in the pound like that experienced yesterday is also not welcome, and dealers report that with the exception of "bargain hunting" at the lower levels buyers of any size are extremely hard to find.

Most jobbers have "long" books at present, but have been consistently unsuccessful over the last few days in attracting support by marking down.

With the events of 1974 still firmly in their minds, market men fear above all else a confrontation between the miners and the Government.

On a brighter note there was talk last night that many of the leading industrial shares are looking oversold and that today could see the start of a minor technical rally. What they are looking for is a period of consolidation in the new, lower trading range with 500 as the top limit on the index.

The anxiety on the labour front and the fall in sterling combined to unsettle the gilt market, too. After a steady opening prices began to lose ground and by mid-afternoon the rate of decline had accelerated.

rated to extend losses among longer dated stocks to as much as £2. A rally towards the close of the day cut the final net losses to around £2. Falls in short dated stocks ran to as much as £1.

Gold shares: The price of gold jumped by \$3 an ounce in London to close at \$164. This is the best closing price since June, 1975.

The gold market has become steadily more bullish in the past few months, linked to the weakness of the dollar and a general exchange rate instability. The good price obtained at the IMF auction on Wednesday buoyed the market.

In Washington the IMF said seven bidders were successful at the auction, when \$24,800 ounces were sold at an average price of \$161.86 an ounce. They were: Bank Leu of Zurich, Dresdner Bank International of Luxembourg, Deutsche Bank of Frankfurt, Samuel Montagu & Co of London, and the Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland, both of Zurich.

Financial Editor, page 21

## Bank policy criticized as the pound drops

Continued from page 1

New York market came in still more pounds were offloaded. Dealers, who reported almost chaotic markets yesterday, at some points were critical of the Bank of England's policy. They felt that the authorities should have intervened when there were no willing buyers of sterling and the rate was being driven down swiftly.

But the Bank and the Treasury said on Monday, when announcing the change in intervention policy, that they had become unable to preserve stability without jeopardizing official money targets. They are steadfastly refusing to give the market a hint of what new level they are prepared to see for the pound.

For a market used to clear management of the rate by the authorities the experience of a free float is very unsettling.

Since the government would

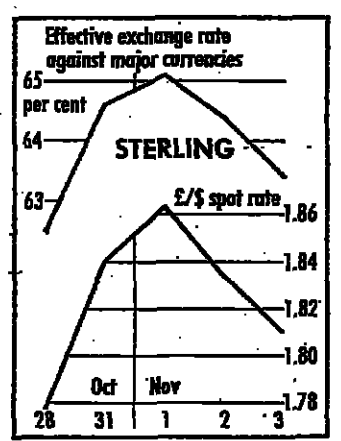
like to see the pound's value back at the level of last spring, which is well below even the bottom of last year's fall, it is unlikely that it will give much support to the rate at a higher level.

The huge amount of money which has come into Britain in the last few months, much of it in search of a quick profit, could easily flow out again if holders of sterling decide that the pound has touched its peak for the time being.

Critics of the Government's decision to let the rate go up—including many members of the CBI—now feel vindicated.

If the Government had hung on a little longer there might have been no need for the intervention of the pound this week. The Government has managed to get the worst of all worlds, they believe.

All those who deal in foreign currencies, which includes most



large companies with overseas business, now have to take a view of the right sterling rate with no guidance from the authorities.

This is bound to lead to instability while the market tests the range. The large inflows of speculative hot money into Britain while the rate was being held down has increased potential instability.

However, the current account surplus should buoy the rate.

## Shortfall of £1,000m expected in government spending for year

By Melvyn Westlake

Government spending in the current financial year will almost certainly fall significantly below the level of last year, as recently as last spring. Present indications are that the extent of this underspending could be not far short of £1,000m.

This is about the same order of magnitude as public authorities' expenditure fell short of planned targets under the new system of cash limits when these were imposed for the first time during the last financial year, which ended in March.

But it remains unclear what proportion of the latest unplanned reduction in public spending falls within those areas—roughly two thirds—of expenditure covered by cash limits for 1977-78.

A second year of underspending by public authorities is bound to increase misgivings in some sections of the Labour Party about the appropriateness of cash limits as a means of controlling expenditure. There has already been much criticism about the inherent sensitivity in the way that cash limits operate.

What must cause particular concern is that the unplanned reduction in spending that is now expected this year will fall disproportionately heavily on public sector investment at a time when investment in the private sector is proving to be very disappointing.

The Treasury referred cryptically to the accumulating

evidence of a shortfall in spending during 1977-78 in the economic forecasts presented with the special measures announced last week by the Chancellor. These forecasts provide some clue to the underspending, but do not show the scale of what is happening because figures for public expenditure on goods and services were given at 1970 prices.

When converted to current prices, it becomes clear that the Treasury has now revised down its estimates of spending this year by an amount not much under £1,000m.

This is not much less than the deliberate cuts which caused such agony to Cabinet ministers last December when such action had to be taken at the behest of the International Monetary Fund in return for its multi-billion dollar loan to Britain.

Moreover, if inflation this year proves to be higher than the Treasury expected a few months ago, the real cut in the volume of government spending could be greater.

This is because a rise in the cost of the goods and services purchased by the Government will, under the cash limits system, lead to a drop in the volume of such purchases.

Thus, in cash terms, public authorities' underspending of £1,000m in 1976-77, while higher-than-expected inflation led to a fall of £3,500m in volume terms, according to some estimates.

The reason for unplanned

cuts taking place, even in cash terms, is that under the new system there is an inevitable tendency for civil servants and local councils to err on the side of caution. As a result all the errors are in the same direction, instead of cancelling each other out, as sometimes happened before.

MPs will have their first opportunity to examine civil servants about this and other matters relating to Mr Healey's latest measures on Monday when the general subcommittee of the Expenditure Committee holds its first meeting of the new parliamentary session.

The subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham West, will be questioning senior Treasury civil servants. These seem likely to include Mr John Anson, the deputy secretary on the public services side, and Ms Patricia Brown, Under Secretary in charge of the general expenditure analysis group.

To assist it, the subcommittee will have a paper written by its economic adviser, Mr Terry Ward of the Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge University.

As well as pressing for explanations about government underspending, MPs on the subcommittee will almost certainly be anxious to explore the Treasury's estimates of the likely employment effect of the Chancellor's measures and his decision to allow the pound to float.

## Barclays names non-executive chairman in division of roles at merchant bank offshoot

By Ronald Pullan

Barclays Bank has decided to "play safe" by appointing a clearing banker from within the group to be the new chairman of the merchant banking offshoot.

Replacing Mr Charles Ball, whose unexpected resignation was announced in the summer ostensibly because of differences over medium-term lending policy, will be Mr Deryk Weyer.

Mr Weyer, who is 52, at present has been with Barclays 36 years and is vice-chairman of the bank with special responsibilities for Treasury and planning, but also of the merchant bank. He is to take over as non-executive chairman from November 30.

Barclays is looking for a managing director to assume responsibility for the day to day running of the merchant bank. Two or three merchant bankers have already been approached and expressed their willingness to join but "we did not think they were quite right for the job".

Commenting on the decision to split the functions of chairman and managing director, both of which roles Mr Ball held, Mr Weyer explained that he did not believe in the "superman concept" and that the risks in lending these days were such that two heads were better than one.

Mr Weyer also paid tribute to Mr Ball for the way he "has put the name of Barclays Merchant Bank firmly on the map in the corporate advisory sphere".

Asked about the possibility of an ex-gratia payment to Mr Ball, Mr Weyer said that as Mr Ball had resigned voluntarily "the question of payments does not arise". Although the final terms of Mr Ball's departure have yet to be finalized, Mr Weyer said that he did not expect there to be any difficulty in settling this.

Explaining the future philosophy of the merchant bank, he said that there were constructive working within the clearing bank structure. But he

thought that the difficulties had been "greatly overestimated" and that in any case the deposit base of the clearing bank gave them a huge advantage over the accepting houses.

In future, Barclays Merchant Bank will concentrate on three main areas—corporate advisory services, medium-term lending and acceptance credits. To fill one of the gaps that has been indicated in evidence to the Wilson Committee, Barclays also announced yesterday that it was extending the period of medium-term loans to more than 10 years, although in the current lending climate there have so far been no takers for this facility.

Barclays is recruiting to strengthen the corporate finance side of the merchant bank. The year to the end of September will be announced shortly, and will show a one-third rise in pre-tax profits and a balance-sheet total of some £550m, thereby putting the Barclays group into the top four merchant banks in the City.



Mr Deryk Weyer: two heads are better than one.

## Simplified proposals on inflation accounting welcomed by CBI

By Nicholas Hirst

A third attempt at producing a workable system of accounting for inflation is made by the accountancy profession today.

Publication by the Accounting Standards Committee, the professional rule-making body of "an interim recommendation" on inflation accounting is intended to have produced a system which will be broadly acceptable to accountants, industry, the Government, and first indications are that it will be.

It is the first time that ASC has produced an "interim recommendation". The simplicity and flexibility of its proposals, which have been worked out by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr William Hyde, chief accountant of Oxford University, are a result of the controversy evoked by previous attempts to bring a workable system of inflation accounting.

The first provisional standard by ASC—using the current purchase power system—foundered under government disapproval.

The second—the interpretation of the Sandilands' report produced by a committee under

the chairmanship of Mr Douglas Morphet, which was published as an Exposure Draft for comment before being made into a standard—foundered through opposition within the profession and industry.

Mr Hyde's guidelines were an attempt to rescue something from the mess resulting from an Institute of Chartered Accountants vote in July against compulsory implementation of any system of current cost accounting.

The new recommendation by the ASC is that adjustments to historic figures produced in the Hyde document should be based on all companies' disclosure of any system of current cost accounting.

The council of the Stock Exchange has applauded the new proposal by ASC to issue an interim recommendation.

A welcoming statement has been issued too by the Confederation of British Industry, but both bodies are cautious in their approach to the Hyde proposal for a "gearing" adjustment to take account of

the effect of inflation on debt financing.

However, as the Stock Exchange recognized, the ASC recommendation itself acknowledges that there are substantial differences within the profession and industry about how to reflect "gearing" adjustments. The guidelines state:

"Companies are not discouraged from following their own methods, providing these are disclosed in a note to the statement."

The CBI said that no controversy over "gearing" should be allowed to delay the implementation of the Hyde proposals, and the Stock Exchange said: "The Accounting Standards Committee have chosen a sensible approach to this problem and welcome the recommendation as a whole."

But the biggest United Kingdom accountancy firms have already committed themselves to supporting the initiative by the ASC, which resulted in the Hyde proposals, and in today's firms making it clear they would be urging clients to produce the information as soon as possible.

## Sun Alliance buys Rank properties for £28m

By Richard Allan

Rank Organisation is selling 11 British properties to the Sun Alliance insurance group for a total of £28m cash.

The properties comprise nine freehold and two long leasehold, all of which have been developed in the past 15 years and include the Barclaycard Centre in Northampton and the Parade shopping centre at Swindon.

Rank yesterday would say only that the sum involved represented an excess over book value, but outside estimates put the surplus at as much as £8m.

The deal is in line with Rank's policy of selectively running down a worldwide property portfolio, which had a book worth of just under £200m at the latest balance sheet, mainly with a view to cutting back indebtedness.

Total borrowings amount to around £300m, with two thirds of this total overseas, and it is understood that the group is aiming to cut back the foreign debts by as much as £100m to bring them more into line with assets in the United States and Canada.

The group is expected to make further headway in this respect through the sale of its Canadian cinema interests. The asking price for these is believed to be over £17m.

The United Kingdom transaction follows an earlier acquisition by Sun Alliance of a small block of shop units in Edinburgh from Rank Organisation. The latest deal will bring Sun Alliance's property commitment for 1977 and 1978 to about £57m.

## Carter aide reaffirms 'tight budget' aim

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Nov 3

Increases in public spending, possibly of less than 2 per cent, will be included in the 1978/79 American budget which President Carter will announce in January.

The projected deficit will be smaller than the estimated \$60,000m (\$33,000m) total for the current year.

Mr James McIntyre, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, assured a business conference in Florida that the President was determined to hold down public spending and put forward a "tight budget" which President Carter had not wavered from his goal of balancing the budget in 1981.

Mr McIntyre also affirmed that the President was remaining firm about the need to hold federal spending to less than 21 per cent of gross national product. He had told every department of the Government and every agency "hold spending down. Watch every penny".

There have been indications recently that President Carter was drawing away from his balanced budget commitment and that the budget in January, which would involve substantial tax-cutting, might produce a record high deficit.

Mr McIntyre, whose influence in the White House is considerable and who was Mr Carter's budget chief in the Georgia state government, appears determined to continue Mr Bert Lance's battle against

further sharp increases in public spending.

To win approval from Congress for a tight budget, Mr McIntyre described what demand, above all, a healthy rate of general economic development. He said the White House was confident about the economic outlook. Unemployment would continue declining, there was no sign of a worsening of the inflation trend, and "we see no sign of recession."

Mr McIntyre outlined some of the thoughts beginning to influence White House decision-making on tax cuts. For instance, he opposed income and investment tax rates of more than 50 per cent.

The Administration was concerned that inflation was producing increased income tax rates, which now averaged 13 per cent of earnings, compared to a historical average of 10 to 12 per cent.

For the first time the federal budget will be constructed through the use of zero-based budgeting techniques. Mr McIntyre said this process was forcing all government sectors fully to review programmes. It would produce considerable savings.

President Carter, it is believed, has decided against nominating a permanent successor to Mr Lance until most of the planning on the forthcoming budget has been completed.

## Wholesale prices in US rise sharply

From Our United States Economic Correspondent

Washington, Nov 3

America suffered the sharpest monthly gain in wholesale prices for six months in September, the Department of Labour announced today.

The announcement came just as Dr Charles Schultz, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, yesterday in a television interview said it was now most unlikely that the inflation rate would fall below 6 per cent in 1978.

The wholesale price index rose 0.8 per cent in September, after a 0.5 per cent advance, which was the sharpest gain seen since a 1.1 per cent rise in April.

Dr Schultz commented that it was going to be difficult to bring the inflation rate below 6 per cent. Some Administration officials admit that rates of 8 per cent or more are most likely to prevail in 1978, too.

They concede that it increasingly appears the Administration was unrealistic earlier this year in setting an inflation target for late 1979 of 4 per cent.

The wholesale index has increased by 5.9 per cent over the last year to 196.3 (1967=100). The trend so far this year has been one of increasing erratic in line with the volatility of farm and processed food prices.

For example, farm product prices registered a 2.4 per cent gain in September, after five months of substantial declines, which in turn followed considerable increases.

## 15 years of growth

Record pre-tax profits of £5.61 million for the year to 30 June 1977 are reported by Mr F. V. Waller, Chairman of Adwest Group. An increase on the previous year's figure has been achieved for the 15th year in succession.

Following the one-for-six Rights Issue a dividend increase of 29 per cent is forecast for next year.

Copies of the Annual Report containing the Chairman's Statement to shareholders, are available from the Secretary, Adwest Group Limited, Reading, RG5 4SN.

## Adwest Group

Automotive, Electrical, Agricultural, Industrial and Engineering Products

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, Nov 3

A 16m rand (about £10.6m) loan issue for Transkei, South Africa's independent Bantustan, has been arranged, but at rates considerably higher than normal semi-gilt levels.

The issue is by two loans, one for 10 years at an all-in rate of 12.56 per cent, and the other five years at 12.17 per cent. This compares, for instance, with a recent Escam (Electricity Supply Commission) issue at 11.8 per cent all-in for 24-year stock.

A capital market expert said: "Transkei has to pay above the odds in the same way that South Africa has to pay a premium on the London market."

Central Merchant Bank has secured underwriting for the issue by a number of financial issues.

## New chief at PO tells of plan to lift standards

Improvements in the performance of the Post Office Corporation were promised yesterday by Sir William Barlow, its new full-time chairman. He said he would lead an attack on declining standards with the help of a new board which is to include employee directors.

Sir William, who has left his higher-paid position as chairman of ballbearing manufacturers Ransome, Jephcott & Hollard for the £23,350-a-year Post Office job, says he has been inundated with opinions. Complaints outnumbered compliments.

He has told the 415,000 staff: "Whether this is justified must be matter of opinion, but what is absolutely clear to me is that if we could give a better service and go out of our way to tell people that is what we are trying to do, the business prospects of the Post Office would improve to the mutual benefit of employees and customers alike."

He adds: "In this country these days there is widespread acceptance of mediocrity and declining standards of service. With the advantages possessed by the Post Office, coupled with management and enthusiasm, we should be able to reverse this trend and set an example by giving a better service to the public."

Yesterday, Sir William met the press and emphasized that all those he had so far met in the postal service and telecommunications enterprise had a general desire to give better service. The test would be in obtaining this and giving the public value for money.

He recognized there had been many improvements in recent years, such as in long distance telephone services. He was a professional manager and would help Post Office workers achieve the improvements they wanted.

Asked what improvements, Sir William replied that perhaps the Post Office could do better in the delivery of letters and on telephone faults. But it was fair for him to gather facts and opinions before being too specific.

He said he approached the structure of the new board with interest and enthusiasm in spite of his past experience in private industry. (There are to be seven employee directors alongside seven management executives, two consumer directors and three non-executive independent members.)

As chairman, he would stress that fellow directors were in the hot seat with duties wider than pushing sectional interests.

Sir William describes the Carter report on the Post Office, as "an interesting document" containing good suggestions as well as some impractical ones. He was in favour of the idea of splitting the corporation. It would introduce an element of competition between two prime methods of communications.

But it would take some time to reach such a point—at best two and a half years.

Maurice Corina

## How the markets moved

The Times index: 201.39-2.90

The FT index: 479.8-6.2

### Rises

Barlow Rand	15p to 155p
Downstream	11p to 284p
E. Rand Prop	35p to 42p
Harmony	25p to 415p

### Falls

A&H	10p to 98p
Allen H. & Ross	30p to 510p
Decca	23p to 510p
De La Rue	23p to 510p
Hammerman 'A'	17p to 510p
Nickson & Welch	15p to 510p
Hunting Assoc	15p to 510p
Hovver	35p to 510p
Kwik Save	16p to 240p
Morgan Edwds	5p to 30p

Equities fell again.

Cut-edged securities were sold.

Dollar premium 100.25 per cent (effective rate 39.40 per cent).

Sterling lost 2.35 cents to \$1.5100.

The effective exchange rate index was at 63.4.

### On other pages

Business appointments 22

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Wall Street 24

### THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	31.60	1.63
Austria Sch	23.00	29.00
Belgium Fr	66.75	63.75
Canada \$	2.08	2.03
Denmark Kr	11.52	11.19
Finland Mk	7.85	7.80
France F	11.00	8.28
Germany Dm	4.29	4.07
Greece Dr	70.00	66.25
Hongkong \$	8.90	8.45
Italy L	163.00	158.00
Japan Yn	480.00	455.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.38
Norway Kr	10.31	9.95
Portugal Esc	76.50	72.50
S Africa Rd	1.72	1.62
Spain Pes	154.50	152.50
Sweden Kr	9.05	8.70
Switzerland Fr	4.24	4.02
US \$	1.48	1.53
Yugoslavia Dnr	39.00	36.00

Gold gained 53 an ounce to \$164.375.

SDR's was 1.15164 on Thursday, while SDR-£ was 0.646341.

Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1,476.4 (previous 1,466.3).

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### Bank Base Rates Table

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New Throgmorton Trust: 24



## The Queen's Speech More aid in pipeline for small businesses

By Our Financial Staff

The Labour Government's new-found commitment to favouring small companies was re-emphasized by the Queen, who said in her speech to the Commons yesterday that further measures to assist small firms were being considered.

In his Budget last week, the Chancellor announced a series of measures to alleviate the position of small businesses, particularly in relation to capital transfer tax, which has been seen by many as a deterrent to growth. Mr Healey's package was worth some £100m in a full year.

Other matters actively being considered by Mr Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who was charged by the Prime Minister in September

with investigating the problems confronting small businessmen, include further alterations to CTT and another extension of the Small Firms Employment Subsidy.

Value-added tax is also being closely studied since this is one of the areas that has caused considerable outrage among businessmen because of the degree of paperwork involved and it is alleged, the attitude of the Customs and Excise Inspectors.

Mr Lever and Mr Bob Cryer, the Minister with special responsibility for small firms, have impressed on the Government that in the current economic climate small businesses present perhaps the best opportunity of bringing down the level of unemployment.



Mr Kaufman: September hopes dashed.

## Battle over shipyard redundancy

By Peter Hill

Negotiations are still taking place between British Shipbuilders and leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on the precise terms of the redundancy Bill.

Officials at the Department of Industry and government ministers are anxious that the negotiations should be completed as soon as possible so an enabling Bill can be introduced into the Commons before the end of the year.

Mr Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, had previously expressed hopes that the terms of the agreement would be settled by the middle of September. The CSEU leaders, however, have spoken strongly against any compulsory redundancy within the industry.

In the discussions which have taken place so far they have preferred to talk about a voluntary redundancy scheme rather than redundancy. At the Treasury's insistence, the enabling Bill will refer to a maximum severance payment of £3,500, but this is regarded as a guide rather than a fixed sum.

Severance payments made under the scheme, which has been modelled on that operated by the British Steel Corporation, are likely to be greater than the ceiling referred to.

## Law on insider trading unlikely this session

By Christopher Wilkins

Legislation covering stock market insider trading and company loans to directors is not now likely to be introduced in the present parliamentary session.

The Queen's Speech included a commitment to "amend company law", but the pressures on the parliamentary timetable suggest that there will only be scope for a limited Bill.

Proposed legislation will cover two main areas. The first is designed to implement the EEC's second directive on the differentiation of public and private companies. A consultative document on this subject was published in late July. The new law will require public companies to take on a new designation, for instance ICI (Public), and will also cover minimum capital requirements.

Also under the legislation, a detailed breakdown of a company's activities, including a source and use of funds statement; short term borrowings; pension fund obligations; leasing arrangements; and foreign currency transactions, will be required.

Proposals outlined earlier this week for a three-tier corporate disclosure system, including less disclosure by small companies, are likely to be dealt with in the legislation on small companies.

of Fraud Act, of 1958, aimed at toughening the legislation covering deposits paid by licensed securities dealers and cutting down exemptions.

Further proposals covering disclosure by companies, introduced, however, the Government is expected to make use of a little known power under section 454 of the 1948 Companies Act allowing it to alter the content of company reports. Only so far as changes in the directors' report are involved will legislation be required.

The July Green Paper, *The Future of Company Reports*, suggested that company reports should include: a value-added statement; an employment statement; more comprehensive financial information; a detailed breakdown of a company's activities; and an international trade statement.

Proposals outlined earlier this week for a three-tier corporate disclosure system, including less disclosure by small companies, are likely to be dealt with in the legislation on small companies.

## White Paper on industrial democracy still held up

By Our Industrial Editor

Given the divisions among trade unions as well as ministers, no one in industry was surprised yesterday to learn of delays in bringing forward a White Paper on legislation on the introduction of employee-directors in companies.

Months of argument in Cabinet committee rooms, strong representations from the Confederation of British Industry, and pressure from Liberals made it inevitable that the Government should recognize the need for further consultations on the sensitive issue of industrial democracy.

It has always been recognized that legislation to promote the introduction of employee representatives in boardrooms would need to command wider support than evident after publication of the Bullock Report, with its divided views on the form worker democracy should take.

The issue is certainly not dead, even if time has now been

bought in framing proposals for Parliament. Experiments are going ahead in the nationalized industries, notably the Post Office, while employers are faced with the implementation of new disclosure provisions under employment-law-related codes of practice.

The Treasury is believed to be examining Liberal ideas for profit sharing schemes, and no one can be quite sure whether general reform of company law will bring provisions relating to employee rights.

Yesterday, the feeling in Whitehall was that the Government will now come forward with a Green Paper setting out some of the post-Bullock options as a basis for its proposed further consultations with the CBI and the TUC.

This might shift the emphasis of discussion up to now away from statutory provisions to give employees controversial rights, to the idea of permissive legislation that would encourage companies to come forward voluntarily with a recommended standards for participation.

Officials at the Department of Industry and government ministers are anxious that the negotiations should be completed as soon as possible so an enabling Bill can be introduced into the Commons before the end of the year.

Mr Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, had previously expressed hopes that the terms of the agreement would be settled by the middle of September. The CSEU leaders, however, have spoken strongly against any compulsory redundancy within the industry.

In the discussions which have taken place so far they have preferred to talk about a voluntary redundancy scheme rather than redundancy. At the Treasury's insistence, the enabling Bill will refer to a maximum severance payment of £3,500, but this is regarded as a guide rather than a fixed sum.

Severance payments made under the scheme, which has been modelled on that operated by the British Steel Corporation, are likely to be greater than the ceiling referred to.

## Compensation for Drax in electricity restructuring Bill

By Roger Vielvoys

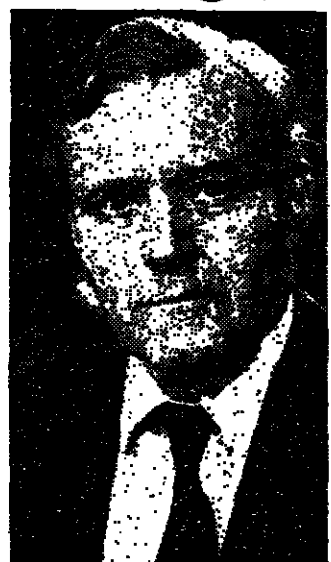
Legislation enabling the Government to compensate the Central Electricity Generating Board for the early ordering of the second stage of the Drax coal-fired power station in Yorkshire will be included in the Bill to reorganize the electricity industry.

The Department of Energy and the generating board have already agreed in principle that compensation should be paid for bringing forward the £650m project by 18 months. The legislation will allow the CEGB to be recompensed for extra costs as they are incurred, up to a maximum of £50m.

Under the general reorganization provisions of the Bill, the CEGB and the Electricity Council will be abolished and a new body likely to be called the Central Electricity Board, will take over responsibility for the industry as a whole.

The legislation will implement the recommendations of the Plowden Committee of Inquiry into the industry which said that the present structure of an autonomous generating authority and 12 area supply boards left the Electricity Council in a relatively weak position as to power to issue directions to the heads of the various constituent parts of the industry.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, hopes that giving the Central Electricity Board the same



Mr Wedgwood Benn: right to appoint regional heads.

status as other state industry boards will not lead to over-centralization. The new board will have a statutory duty to devolve a maximum authority to operating units throughout England and Wales.

Mr Benn is also planning to retain the right to appoint heads of the regional units that will replace the 12 supply boards. Apart from the Drax 3 compensation provisions this is likely to be the only controversial section of the Bill.

## Review of competition policy overlaps



Mr Charles Williams: new powers.

By Patricia Tisdall  
An examination of overlapping aspects both of the legislation and the bodies which administer it will be part of the review of competition policy announced yesterday.

While the precise form of the review has not yet been decided, new powers given to the Price Commission, headed by Mr Charles Williams, on August 1 for example take it much closer to, and in some instances duplicates, the functions of the Monopolies Commission.

The possibility of an eventual merger between the two commissions has already been discussed, and is likely to be raised again.

At the same time it is likely

that ways of tightening up administration of existing legislation governing competition policy will be raised. Concrete proposals to strengthen Government powers following a Monopolies Commission report have already been made.

Further sanctions to control restrictive trade practices, possibly to bring in organizations which have not registered under the present system, may be proposed.

The Government has expressed its concern about the level of concentration of ownership in British industry relative to that in other countries. This may be reflected in their scrutiny of existing legislation concerning future large-scale company mergers.

## Chrysler stewards will urge return to work by strikers at Linwood

By Edward Townsend

Proposals to end the damaging strike at Chrysler UK's Linwood car assembly plant in Scotland are to be put to a meeting today after intervention by ministers and top union officials.

The strikers, whose stoppage has closed the plant, halted production of the Avenger and new Sunbeam models and led to calls for support from other Scottish workers, are to be advised by shop stewards to return to work to new detailed discussions with the company.

The apparent speed with which a solution has been agreed follows an urgent meeting on Wednesday night between Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mr Grenville Hawley of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr Gavin Laird of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The Government's extreme concern that the state-backed car group might be disrupted for a long period was expressed to the two union officials, who travelled to Scotland yesterday to discuss with the Linwood stewards.

Linwood has been closed for 16 days by the dispute, which arose after the suspension of four inspectors for refusing to move to another part of the factory. More than 7,000 workers are laid off.

In a statement last night Chrysler said that throughout the dispute it had emphasized the need for serious discussions on measures to improve output. These would now take place and involve senior national union officials as well as representatives of management and the Chrysler joint representative council.

British Leyland, still hit by a strike at its plant at Speke, Liverpool, has taken swift action to implement the decision of the

workers' ballot in favour of its wage-reform package. Leyland management yesterday met national union officials in London and announced later that a meeting of the joint negotiating committee on pay bargaining was to take place next week.

Once the final agreement has been signed, Leyland plans to backdate parts of the package to November 1.

The Speke strike has halted output of the TR7 sports car and Dolomite at Coventry. About 1,500 men stopped work five days ago over a manning dispute.

A further 2,000 have been laid off at Leyland's Cowley factories because of a parts shortage caused by a strike at Smiths Industries at Crickmoor.

Vauxhall said yesterday that the bulk of its 24,000 manual workers had responded to a company offer to return to work despite a continuing strike by 3,000 craftsmen.

## In brief

### W German jobless goes up to 4.2 pc

Registered unemployed in West Germany rose last month by 43,100 to 954,400. The total now stands at 4.2 per cent of the working population.

The increase, which followed a similar rise in September, was attributed to seasonal factors by Herr Josef Stengl, president of the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg.

He was disappointed that the situation on the labour market is so poor, but we were pleasantly surprised that there was no further cyclical deterioration," he commented when announcing the figures.

There are now about 10,700 more people unemployed in West Germany than there was a year ago.

### Housing starts show third quarter advance

Construction of 28,400 houses and flats was started in September, against 29,500 in the same month last year, according to figures published yesterday. Completions in September numbered 28,100, against 30,000 last year.

Taking three-month totals to reduce monthly fluctuations and discounting seasonal factors, starts in the third quarter of 1977 were 5 per cent up on the April to June period, but 17 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 1976.

### Overseas construction contracts total £1,700m

Overseas contracts worth £1,700m were won by British construction companies in the year ended March 1977, according to provisional figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment.

This total was £383m higher than the revised figure for 1975/76.

### Hatch decision delay

The Government's decision on plans by the Japanese Hitachi group to establish a television factory at Tyne and Wear has been delayed. Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said yesterday. Hitachi is being given more time for discussions with industry critics, who say the plant would create thousands of redundancies in British television suppliers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### When insurance is put in jeopardy

From Mr J. C. Edmondson  
Sir, I am astonished that no one from the insurance industry has commented on Mr N. V. Kay's letter published in *Business News* (October 24). His letter raises most important practical and philosophical points.

For example:  
(a) When judges sentence offenders they also silently adding... and you will never again be able to insure against fire?"

(b) If so, is it not incumbent upon all insurers to advise their customers of all the offences

which will render their present policies void?

(c) Has it not hitherto been assumed that the courts would protect citizens against the attempts of insurers to avoid liability where the latter sought to rely on spurious questions asked years beforehand?

(d) As it is my experience that insurers consistently seek to avoid liability ought they not to be required to employ the most explicit forms of proposal—copies of which ought to be provided for the insured's retention?

(e) Is it not indicative of the

determination of insurers to avoid liability that those documents the insured considers most vital (that is, the policy document and the renewal notice) rarely make mention of the jeopardy the insured may be in as a result of innocent omission?

(f) Finally—where does it all end? Is it really in the public interest for those who have ever in their lives broken the law to be denied insurance?

J. C. EDMONDSON,  
34 The Garstons,  
Great Bookham, Surrey.

## Pension scheme funding and 'games of chance'

From the Director-General of the Royal Institute of Public Administration

Sir, In his letter published under the title "Funded Public Sector Pension Schemes" (*Business News*, October 31) Mr K. G. Smith, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, says that, provided a real return is realized on investments, it is cheaper long-term to meet pension liabilities through funded schemes than via pay-as-you-go. He adds that the pressing need for a real rate of return is now becoming universally recognized.

In this imperfect world, however, recognition of need is no guarantee of its satisfaction. A recent publication by Roger Kison and Michael Pich, entitled *Pension Funds and the Economy* (Noble Lowndes Division, Lowndes Lambert Group Limited) gives valuable information about the effects of varying real rates of return on pension fund investments. The authors state that for a man of 35 at entry, who is to receive an inflation-related pension of £5 on the basis of 1/60 of final earnings for each year of service, a contribution of 10 per cent of salary will suffice if a positive real rate of return of 3 per cent can be secured. A contribution of 43 per cent of salary will be required, however, if the rate of return is a negative one of 3 per cent.

It follows that if the employee contributes 5 per cent of salary, the employer's contribution will range from 5 per cent to 38 per cent of salary. In the least favourable situation, therefore, the employer's contribution will be 7½ times as large as in the most favourable. Such a range of possibility is surely well beyond the tolerances and margins for error within which the prudent businessman normally conducts his affairs.

That this is no idle theorizing may be seen from the experience of the Post Office, which is now paying pension contributions of 23 per cent of salary in addition to the 7 per cent paid by the staff. The joint contribution in British Steel is currently 24 per cent of the pay roll. These rates are payable for at least the next 20-25 years, and it would be a bold man who would prophesy that they will rise no further.

The employer who is committed to a funded pension scheme offering inflation-related benefits with only a fixed rate of contribution from his employees is thus gambling in a big way. He is putting his finances at the mercy of unpredictable and uncontrollable events in the world at large for an unlimited period of time. That the Government should permit (or require) local authorities and the nationalized industries to hazard large sums of public money in such a game of chance when it has no need to do so is surely reprehensible to a degree.

RAYMOND NOTTAGE,  
Director-General,  
Royal Institute of Public Administration,  
Hamilton House,  
Maddox Place,  
London WC1H 9BD.

## Limit on gifts brought from overseas

From Mr M. Woodgett

Sir, I have recently taken part in a school trip to Russia. The last few days of the holiday were considerably spoiled for the members of the party by the realization that they were entitled to bring into Britain gifts only to the value of £10, and that they might well be required to pay duty on any gifts that transgressed that total.

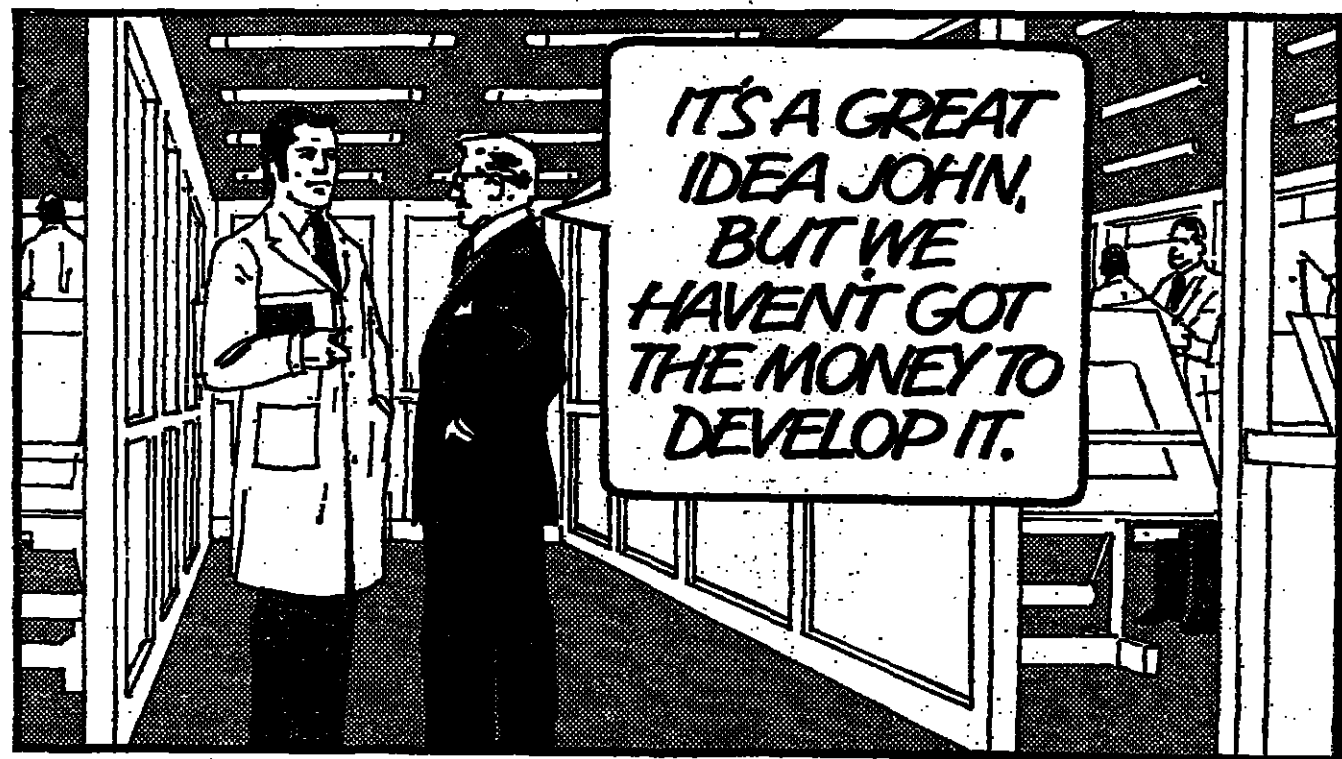
They found it almost impos-

sible even for schoolboys to buy worthwhile presents and souvenirs without breaking the limit, especially in a country such as Russia, with its artificial exchange rate.

I wonder how long this limit has been applied? In recent years inflation and the decline in the purchasing power of the pound have combined to make the limit nugatory. Could not the Chancellor afford to be more generous? As we are in

any case limited as to the sum we may take out of the country, would it be possible to abandon controls except on certain dutiable goods such as drinks, electrical apparatus and similar major items?

Yours faithfully,  
M. WOODGETT,  
Heathcote,  
Faringdon Road,  
Abingdon on Thames,  
Oxfordshire OX14 1BQ,  
October 28.



## ICL 'refusing data access to independents'

By Kenneth Owen

Government-backed International Computers (ICL), Britain's largest indigenous computer company, is restricting access to technical information by independent maintenance companies, it was alleged yesterday.

Mr Max Eastwell, United Kingdom divisional general manager of Data Processing Customer Engineering (DPCE), said that the computer user had the right to choose who maintained his equipment. The British Government, as the largest computer user in the country, was "stified and constricted" in its choice of services by the policy of ICL.

DPCE, an Australian company, moved into the United Kingdom market just over a year ago when it gained the substantial maintenance contract for British Airways' large and mainly IBM-based computer complex.

"ICL refuses point blank to provide to independent maintenance companies, or to customers, who wish to use third-party maintenance, the support services which should be provided," Mr Eastwell said. "They will not provide access to diagnostics, spare parts or technical support."

## 67pc of dismissal claims favoured the employer

By Our Industrial Editor

Evidence which appears to refute employers' claims that industrial tribunals are favouring workers in bringing forward claims under new employment protection law has been produced by the Department of Employment.

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, is apparently concerned and surprised by the current wave of complaints about provisions against unfair dismissals.

Figures prepared by the Department show that in the 12 months up to the end of June there were 39,000 complaints of unfair dismissal. However, this did not result in the same number of tribunal hearings, as about 12,000 were settled satisfactorily by conciliation officers and almost 10,000 cases were simply withdrawn.

Out of the 17,000 cases, which went forward to a hearing, about 11,500 were found in the employers' favour—approximately 67 per cent—therefore produced decisions against employees complaining of unfair dismissal.

However, employers, faced with a wave of unfair dismissal actions (there were only 5,000 in 1972 compared with an expected 50,000 in 1977), say the fact that so many cases are being won by employers begs

the question of whether too many employees are just rushing to tribunals to trade their ex-employers, who are obliged to prove they did not dismiss unfairly.

Mr Booth's answer is that the number of claims underlines the importance workers place on their rights. Employers who feel they spent undue time coping with this form of litigation should be asked whether their policies left something to be desired. Not all employees, he says, are awkward customers, for there are awkward employers too.

The Department of Employment is now monitoring the operation of the Employment Protection Act and has commissioned research on its effects on the labour market.

This week, Mr Booth begins a campaign to counter attacks on the new employment law. He says "We have seen no hard evidence so far to support the allegations that have been made about the adverse effects of employment legislation in the labour market."

Unfair dismissal procedure, he argues, does not mean everyone had a job for life. "Of course a worker can be dismissed, but only if it is fair and reasonable to do so. And anyone who takes such a decision must be prepared to stand by his reasons for doing so."

مركزنا من اجل



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

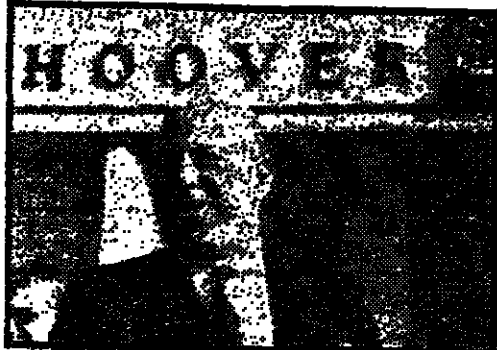
## Parameters for sterling

The way the authorities let sterling fall below the \$1.80 level yesterday afternoon inevitably drew squeals of anguish from the foreign exchange market. That in itself does not automatically call for sympathy.

But there is a very real question as to what the authorities were up to. Were they merely showing that the parameters within which sterling is to be allowed to float are indeed extremely wide and, perhaps, extremely flexible too? Or was yesterday's action, or inaction, more than a move of expediency following the unexpected threat delivered to pay policy by the miners' earlier in the week?

It is doubtless going to take the authorities a little more time to find their sea-legs in the floating game. But they are going to have to make some decision before too long on the appropriate degree of volatility they should permit.

That is not to say that the authorities, having set out to sea, should use the first ripple as an excuse for turning back towards the shore. But having allowed substantial potential instability to build up in the gilt-edged market this year, they might well feel that they are rather less seaworthy than they might otherwise have been.



● Profits are still being ravaged by currency losses at Hoover so at the nine-month point, pre-tax profits of £8.6m do not compare well with the £12.4m achieved at this stage last year.

But a 35p fall in the share price yesterday to 360p seemed an unduly savage reaction and perhaps owed more to the susceptibility of Hoover to technical movements than to market pessimism.

Allowing for a currency swing of over 15m from profit to loss in the first nine months, underlying profits growth has been of the order of 18 per cent.

Hoover, whose chairman is Mr P. C. Dunn (above) has managed to keep prices moving ahead and despite heavy discounting margins have actually crept up.

Meanwhile, the group still seems able to take greater market share even in the fierce washing machine arena and a pre-Christmas spending boost could push profits to over £15m for the full year. That would leave the shares on a p/e ratio of around 10 and with a likely yield of over 6, looking relatively cheap ahead of what is widely expected to be a good year for consumer durable makers.

**Inflation accounting**

**A workable compromise**

Guidelines on inflation accounting produced by the Hyde Committee chief are clearly a compromise short-term solution. Possible areas of confrontation have been unashamedly ducked; dissenters on methods of calculating adjustments are easily accommodated.

At its most basic the Hyde system is little more than a plea to produce three main inflation accounting adjustments on depreciation, sales and the effect of debt financing, in a prominent place in accounts, by whatever method suits, providing the method is disclosed. At its best it is a simple and effective way of showing the effect of inflation on profits which in detail will please no-one, but everyone can accept. Its beauty is that it is workable.

The stridency of the voices calling for a system of inflation accounting has fallen with inflation itself. The need for it remains. Stockbrokers Phillips & Drew calculate that after tax profits for 1977 will be reduced by between 35 per cent and 40 per cent by implementing Hyde compared with a 48 per cent reduction from implementing the Morphet Group's, exposure draft. The difference is Hyde's recognition of benefits gained by the effects on inflation on debt financing.

A system of inflation accounting that

## HYDE IN PRACTICE

Estimate of the effects of the adjustments on industrial companies' historic cost profits for 1977.

Conventional pre-tax profit	100
Depreciation adjustment	18
Cost of sales adjustment	22
Adjustments from associates	1
Plus "gearing" adjustment	9
Net adjustments	32
Current cost profit	68
Tax (no provision for deferred tax)	35
CCA after tax profit	33

Source: Phillips & Drew.

ignored gains from monetary liabilities had been increasingly regarded as inadequate. Hyde's system may not be perfect, but the guidelines are open to improvement. The important thing is that the step has been taken, and both the CBI and the Stock Exchange have gone along with it.

Few companies may be able to comply with the recommendation to produce accounts for 1977 adjusted the Hyde way. Most should be able to next year. The test of the guidelines and of a continuing requirement for inflation accounting will be how much attention the adjusted accounts command from financial commentators, unions and Government.

● ICI's offer of its 62.8 per cent stake in IMI (48 per cent paid) required investors to put up £32.7m by yesterday's close, and they did just that. But only just.

No one was denying last night, least of all the issuing houses involved, Schroder Wagg and Warburgs, that this big offer has become a close run thing once the market turned sour after the sterling drama and the miners' vote.

A couple of days ago underwriters were preparing the take up stock. In the end a yield of over 9 per cent at the offer price and heavy applications from among ICI's 550,000 shareholders, who got first preference, proved sufficient to save the day and probably did IMI's after-market a great deal of good in that the stags stayed away.

## Barclays Merchant banking is for clearers

The appointment of a safe and solid clearing banker in the mould of Mr Deryk Weyer, presently vice-chairman of the Barclays group, to head up the merchant banking arm following the abrupt departure of the more flamboyant Mr Charles Ball will provide yet more ammunition to those in the City who argue that the inevitably cumbersome structure of the clearer can never really effectively handle the more free-wheeling style of the merchants.

What it seems to imply for Barclays merchant bank is that it will henceforth take a much lower profile. Certainly Barclays was yesterday emphasizing that the mainstream banking side was far more profitable than the more publicized take-over business, and it would be in that area in which it would concentrate its activities. But it also seems fairly clear that Mr Weyer's appointment, even though in a non-executive capacity, has been made with an eye to avoiding the sort of disagreements between the merchant banking arm and the rest of the group that led to Mr Ball's departure. So it looks as though Barclays will never allow its merchant banking side the same sort of freedom that Samuel Montagu appears to enjoy with its Midland masters.

All the same, while conceding that the merchant bank suffers certain constraints from operating in a larger grouping—much of the medium-term lending will continue to be done in the branches, the international side will keep on the Eurocurrency business, investment management will be carried out inside the trust company—Barclays nevertheless feels that the ordinary corporate finance business, acceptance credits and the rest of the medium-term lending business provides it with a decent future.

Whether what Barclays is now doing should truly be termed merchant banking is another matter, however. The decision to pump more of its money into 10-year and more lending, funds that will not always be matched with deposits in maturity, also seems to take the group farther away from merchant banking as such.

The modest amounts due to trickle into wage packets at the end of this month as a result of the change in tax allowances will bring an immediate relief to some retailers. In the longer term, an improvement in consumer affluence brought by a real rise in wages against lower inflation cannot fail to benefit the industry generally. But it will take a long time to wipe out the accumulated trade lost over the past five years.

For some traders, such as Meakins, Sweeney & Wells, John Temple and Chris, competition with large numbers of branches shied by multiples, including International and the Co-op, any reprieve comes too late to avert closure. More subtle changes in shopping habits, in the balance between specialist and general trader and between large and small stores may also prove irreversible.

## Patricia Tisdall

Against expectations, 1977 has so far turned out to be a very bad year indeed. It started badly with the first quarter's index of volume sales at 105.2, the lowest for more than five years.

During the subsequent months, up to August (the latest date for which full Department of Trade figures are available), the index of volume sales improved as to be imperceptible if averaged over the eight months.

March, April, May and June were exceptionally poor, well below the average at between 102.1 and 104.4, there was a slight comparative recovery to 107 and 107.2 in July and August, but provisional figures for September, at 106.5 show that the decline has been resumed and retailer reports are that October has been no better.

The worrying aspect, taken

## Will Christmas redeem the retailers' year?

## CHANGE IN VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES

	All kinds of business	Food shops	Clothing and footwear shops	Durable goods shops	Other non-food shops
1973	110.7	101.0	109	127	118
1974	109.9	101.8	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	108	121	115
1976	108.1	99.1	108	124	114
Average of 1st 8 months 1977	105.2	95.0	107	120	113
Average of 1st 8 months 1973	110.0	100.8	109	126	117
% decrease over 5 years	4.4	5.8	1.8	4.8	3.4

Source: Department of Trade.

buying patterns to match their strained purses.

By June the move to cheaper foods and other economies in buying had become reflected in the National Food Survey. The most striking example is tea and instant coffee, where reaction against higher prices caused a big drop in purchases.

Sales of coffee at 0.33oz per person per week is over 28 per cent down on the equivalent figure for 1976, and over 35 per cent down on 1975. Tea purchases, at 1.98oz per person per week, are down by about 10 per cent on the 1976 total.

Other movements in food purchases include a reduction in butter but an increase in margarine. There were decreases, compared with 1976, in comparative "luxuries" such as fresh fruit, canned fruit, canned fish and meat, but increases in offals and home baking products, including flour and cooking fats.

The big food stores reacted to the decrease in their overall market by striving to become more price competitive. The downward trend in overall sales was a factor in influencing Tesco's decision to abandon Green Shield stamps in June and to substitute keen price cutting to improve its share of the market.

The effect of the resounding price war has been to widen the price gap between the big mul-

tiples food stores and the small, unaffiliated independents. On some food products there may now be a variation of as much as 40 per cent in the price charged by different types of shop.

It is too soon yet to assess the full consequences of a price gap of this magnitude, but preliminary results are that more customers are travelling longer distances and shopping less frequently in order to take advantage of the bigger stores' prices. Once firmly established, such a trend is not likely to be reversed by a gradual return to affluence.

Another move accentuated by the slump in overall sales has been the noticeable attempts by the big food stores to improve efficiency. One obvious way has been to pare stock levels and to speed up the distributive chain from manufacturer to shop floor. To this end all the big groups are seriously considering the use of new electronic aids. The manufacturers of some of these claim to be able to reduce store stock levels by up to 50 per cent.

In addition to improving handling efficiency, the big food retailers have also drastically reduced the number of different products stocked. A return to affluence could lead to an opening for small specialist food traders to fill the gaps created by the multiples' economies.

One of the unexpected trends revealed by the 1971 Census of Distribution (some of the results of which are still being published) is the rise of specialist durable shopkeepers between 1961 and 1971. Contrary to widely-held beliefs, large numbers of specialists dealt in a variety of goods, from fishing tackle to jewelry (which possibly the multiples tended to find too specialized) did well during that period. It is possible that this trend could be extended to food.

Next to food the category to suffer most over the past five years has been the durable goods stockist whose volume of trade has dropped by 4.8 per cent over the five-year period.

This is the sector which is most quickly responsive to general economic changes. Past experiences, notably the amazing "beat-the-Budget" boom in April 1975, has shown that sales respond steeply and immediately to tax changes or the threat of tax changes. But within this category, as elsewhere, have been cutting back on stock levels and may not be able to satisfy a sharp increase in consumer demand.

Clothing and footwear sales overall have remained comparatively steady throughout the recession, with volume sales ending the five-year period only 1 per cent down. But within this category, fairly satisfactory sales of footwear, children's and women's fashion clothing have disguised declines in men's and boys' wear.

An analysis of retail sales trends compiled by I. Walter Thompson suggests that footwear shops enjoyed a volume increase of 3.5 per cent in 1976 over the preceding year, but men's and boys' wear sales dropped by 4.5 per cent, while the third group maintained volume sales close to the 1975 level.

The trend, however, is a gradual one and is not likely to be quickly reversed.

## Fresh light thrown on the laser beam's potential

For many years the laser appeared to be a solution looking for problems. More recently it has emerged into public view in a kaleidoscope of light-shows, the more flamboyant Mr Charles Ball will provide yet more ammunition to those in the City who argue that the inevitably cumbersome structure of the clearer can never really effectively handle the more free-wheeling style of the merchants.

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Similarly, he's also served on the CBI Council and should therefore be able to do something about the dissatisfaction which led his predecessor to withdraw the PO from membership of the confederation.

Like a lot of things the CBI has been doing and saying recently, he said: "While I don't know all the reasons for the Post Office's leaving, it will have my consideration, certainly."

He is as keen to winnow out complaints that are unjustified as he is to identify and act upon those that are fair—and he will have full scope to indulge in coming weeks.

There is a long queue of people wishing to bend his ear, among them members of the statutory Post Office Users' National Committee and business-inspired organizations such as the Telephone and the Mail Users' Associations.

But Sir William seems to be off to a good start.

■ The Washington DC real estate market is being rocked by two spectacular deals, one involving what is probably the most celebrated piece of private property in the world, and the other concerning one of the world's best known and richest politicians.

About \$49m has just been paid by American property interests associated with the Continental Illinois Bank for half of the Watergate complex, including the office that was the scene of a certain burglary back in 1972.

The seller is the Italian Societa Immobiliare Generale, which has been troubled since, not long after Watergate, one of its chief organizers, John Slattery, was arrested on charges of involvement in the Watergate scandal.

A couple of miles away from the Watergate the former

Footprints on a carpet might be undetectable with an ordinary camera, but a double-exposure hologram could show the barely perceptible changes as the carpet fibres move back into place. The Police Scientific Development Branch reports that 48-hour-old footprints have been revealed in laboratory tests; and a 12-hour-old footprint can be "dated" to within one hour.

The same technique can be used to read and "date" the impressions left by writing on a pad of paper, even when many sheets are torn off; and to indicate whether or not a telephone has recently been used.

Lasers are unsurpassed for generating straight lines for alignments and measurements in surveying and construction work. As well as straight-forward laser versions of the ubiquitous theodolite, an ingenious rotating helium-neon laser system has been developed.

For construction work, the rotating laser can be used to "draw" a thin, perfectly horizontal red line on walls (as the beam's red dot moves rapidly across). This can be used as a horizontal reference for windows, floor joists, ceilings, and so on.

Conventional lasers and their dead-straight lines are used also in tunnelling, mining, pipe-laying, trenching, fencing, steel erection, bridge-building and shipbuilding.

Range-finding is another natural use for lasers, in both civil-engineering and military applications. Individual soldiers can carry binocular-like laser rangefinders.

Among military aircraft electronics are weapon-aiming systems which home in on targets which are marked by laser beams aimed by troops on the ground. Another aerospace development involves laser-based gyroscopes for the guidance and navigation of missiles and aircraft.

Among a host of other specialist uses of lasers, communications and medicine (including in particular eye surgery) indicate the wide ITI, Marconi-Edmont Avionic range of possibilities. A carbon-dioxide laser scalpel is among the exhibits at the Science Museum; lasers as playing cards for laser discs are on the horizon; X-ray lasers in the future will make possible true X-ray holograms.

Kenneth Owen Technology Correspondent

## FIBREGLASS PILKINGTON LIMITED BOMBAY

## Record Turnover and Profits

Results for the year to 31st March 1977

	1977	1976
Turnover	£'000	£'000
	5,633	4,037
Trading Profit	1,543	945
Net Profit before Tax and after all charges	1,340	729
Earnings per Share	27.7p	18.9p
Proposed Dividend per Share	11.8p	9.9p
Sterling/Rupee Conversion Rate	= 15.2R/£	

The following points were made at the Annual General Meeting held in Bombay on the 13th September 1977 by the Chairman, Mr. T. E. Peppercorn:

- The year had again been a successful one with record sales and profits in difficult circumstances.
- The benefits of high volumes of sales and production together with increases in factory efficiencies were reflected in the improved profits.
- Exports had doubled and progress here is expected to continue.
- Under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act the Government had agreed that the Pilkington Group may continue to hold a majority shareholding in FGP in view of the sophisticated nature of the Company's technology and subject to a satisfactory export performance.
- The Company had indicated to the Government its intention to make application for the renewal of its licensing and technical agreements.
- A dividend of 18% (last year 15%) was declared.

Fibreglass Pilkington Limited is a subsidiary of the Pilkington Group with a substantial Indian institutional and public shareholding.

## Business Diary: Whither the second Sir William?

Sir William Barlow, who took over this week from Sir William Ryland as chairman of the Post Office Corporation, was "at home" to Business Diary in his new office yesterday.

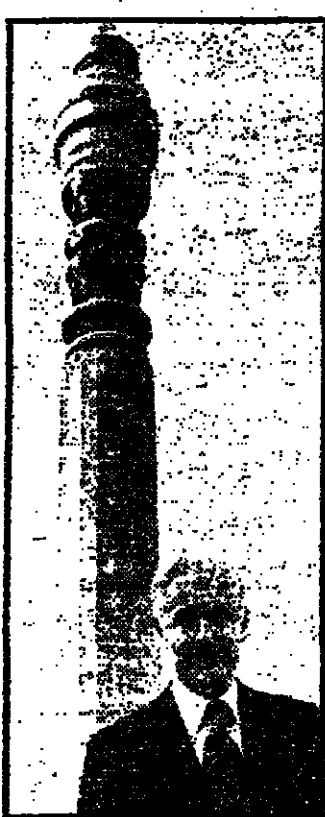
Sir William, who is 53, comes to the PO—second only to British Leyland as the greatest Aunt Sally of British business life—from the comparative calm of the ballbearing makers Ransome, Hoffman Pollard.

He comes over as a quiet, confident diplomatic sort of chap (he has a reputation as a fast worker and decision taker, the sort who doesn't like to take work home), and seems happy to take the blame as well as the praise if the PO service does not improve.

His visits to PU staff, he said, had convinced him that they wanted to improve services, and therefore his job was "to help loyal staff raise standards—that pleases customers, improves Post Office confidence in itself, and profits will come from giving value for money".

Sir William allowed that the corporation could perhaps deliver letters more quickly and make telephoning smoother, but added that improvements had been made, as in the long-distance telephone service, for example.

He, if anyone, should be able to get on well with his sponsoring ministry, the Department of Industry, since he has served within Noddy and there-



Photograph by John Manning  
The Post Office's Sir William Barlow yesterday: tower of strength?

Im Slater's row with the author Charles Raw over the latter's book Slater, Walker (Deutsch, £6.95) continues today as Slater pops up as reviewer in the publishing trade magazine Books & Bookmen. Although Slater describes Raw's account as inaccurate, boring and unfair,



National Film Finance Corporation's Sir John Terry: the more the merrier.



## THE HYDE REPORT

## Accounting Standards Committee call for inflation adjustments

The Accounting Standards Committee asks for all listed companies to make adjustments to show the effects of inflation to the historic profit and loss account for periods ending December 31, 1977.

It is recommended that three adjustments should be made to the financial results as computed on the historical cost convention.

**DEPRECIATION:** An adjustment should be made for the difference between depreciation based upon the current cost of fixed assets and the depreciation charged in computing the historical cost result.

**COST OF SALES:** An adjustment should be made for the difference between the current cost of stock at the date of sale and the amount charged in computing the historical cost result.

**GEARING:** It is recognized that there are differing views on the question of how monetary items should be dealt with in inflation-adjusted statements, and that such differences are unlikely to be resolved quickly or without experiment. Nevertheless, it is considered that it would not be acceptable for the adjustment recommended to be limited to adjustments for depreciation and cost of sales.

Such limitation would result in an incomplete and potentially misleading picture being given to shareholders and other users of accounts. Accordingly, the description of the gearing adjustment given below and the proposals which follow are intended as an

interim guide as to how this adjustment might be approached.

There are two different situations to be met, each of which calls for a different treatment:

(a) If the total liabilities of the business, including for this purpose preference share capital, exceed its total monetary assets, so that part of its operating capability is effectively financed by the net monetary liabilities, an adjustment should be made to reflect the extent to which the depreciation and cost of sales adjustments do not need to be provided in full from the current revenues of the business in showing the profit attributable to the shareholders.

(b) If the total monetary assets of the business exceed its total liabilities, an adjustment should be made to reflect the increase in the net monetary assets needed to maintain its scale of operation.

The form of each of these three adjustments is described below.

**Depreciation**

Where the business has already developed appropriate methods of computing current cost depreciation it is recommended that such methods should be used for the purpose of computing the adjustment.

Where other appropriate methods have not been developed the charge for current cost depreciation may be computed by use of an appropriate index of price movements. For this purpose the historical cost gross and net book values and current year depreciation charge should be

analysed by reference to the year of purchase of each asset concerned.

These amounts should be revised in accordance with the change in appropriate indices between the year of purchase and the current year.

The depreciation adjustment is then the difference between the revised current year depreciation charge and the historical cost depreciation charge.

For assets in the United Kingdom the index or indices used may be selected from the industry specific or asset specific indices published in the Central Statistical Office booklet *Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting*.

For assets in the Republic of Ireland the index or indices used may be selected from those published by the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Ireland.

For buildings the index of the cost of new construction may be used.

For assets located in other countries, corresponding indices should be used where available. The Central Statistical Office booklet *Current Cost Accounting in Practice* may be helpful in indicating the indices available in certain overseas countries. If suitable specific indices for overseas assets cannot be obtained a general price index for the country concerned may be used.

The method used to compute the depreciation adjustment, and the indices employed, should be disclosed in a brief note to the statement.

**Cost of sales**

Where the business has already developed appropriate methods of computing the current cost of sales it is recommended that such methods should be used for the purpose of computing the adjustment.

Where, for example, where accounting information is available from standard costing systems, or from basic stock in-hand-out methods, it may be possible easily to compute the current cost of sales without resort to other methods.

Where a more appropriate method cannot be devised and implemented in the time available it is recommended that, wherever possible, the cost of sales adjustment should be computed using the averaging method.

Using the averaging method, the current cost of sales may be computed by revising the historical cost of opening and closing stock to the average current cost for the year by use of an appropriate index. The index, or indices, used for this purpose should be disclosed in a brief note to the statement.

Where progress payments are received from customers, the cost of sales adjustment should be computed on the amount of stock and work in progress after deduction of such payments. To avoid duplication, the progress payments deducted from stock and work in progress should be excluded from the calculation.

The method used to compute the cost of sales adjustment, and the indices employed, should be disclosed in a brief note to the statement.



Mr. William Hyde, who headed the sub-committee reporting on inflation accounting interim guidelines, is shown in a brief note to the statement.

**Gearing**

It is acknowledged that some companies have already drawn up current cost statements including a gearing adjustment calculated by a method different from that described below, and that others may be planning to do so. Recognising that circumstances will differ, such companies are not discouraged from following their own methods providing these are disclosed in a note to the statement.

The simple approach to the calculation of a gearing adjustment outlined below is recommended.

Where the total liabilities of the business, including preference share capital, exceed its total monetary assets, the adjustment should be made of the proportion of:

(a) the net balance of monetary liabilities, to

(b) the net balance of monetary liabilities plus the equity share capital and reserves.

In computing the amount of reserves to be used in this calculation, the difference between the current values and historical cost amounts for fixed assets and, if material, for stocks, should be added to the reserves shown by the historical cost accounts.

An amount equal to this proportion of the depreciation and cost of sales adjustments should be credited as a separate adjustment in the statement.

Where the total monetary assets of the business exceed its total liabilities, an adjustment should be calculated by applying to the net balance of monetary assets the percentage change in an appropriate index during the accounting year. This adjustment should be charged as a separate item in the statement.

In order to relate these adjustments as closely as possible to the current year's results, averages from the opening and closing balance sheets of the accounting year should be used, unless an alternative averaging method is considered necessary to give a fairer view. For the first year for which this calculation is made, it should be based upon the closing balance sheet if an appropriate average position cannot be obtained without an undue amount of work.

The method used to compute the adjustment, and the index employed, should be disclosed in a brief note to the statement.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Well done Gieves—interim results show three-fold rise

By Alison Mitchell

Neither recession, nor squeeze on public spending seems to prevent the man-about-town from paying upwards of £200 for a suit in Savile Row.

The tailoring and outfitting division of the Gieves Group, which includes an outlet in the Row, boosted pre-tax profits to a bumper £137,000 in the six months to July 31 against £53,000.

Helped by a buoyant tourist trade and a well-timed sale of the shop at 1 Savile Row, the division's profits were up 150 per cent on the corresponding period of the previous year.

Mr. Michael Keeling, chairman, admits that sales to Middle East and European customers were useful.

Taken as a whole, pre-tax profits of the group—£1.1m—were up 25 per cent on the corresponding period of the previous year.

The book manufacturing side is good in parts. The Webb machine, which cost the group around £400,000 has built up a strong order book. However, demand remains patchy in book printing. Costs are pricing

many hard cover books out of the market.

In the first half-year this division turned a profit of £12,000 into a £119,000 profit and it is unlikely to slip back in the second six months.

Gieves is to spend a further £135,000 on the largest pre-tax profit earner, mechanical binding systems.

The motor dealers' side, which made a pre-tax profit of £15,000 on a turnover of over £2.5m, is causing concern with margins on petrol being trimmed almost out of existence. However, progress has been made towards better franchise arrangements which should continue to support margins.

With the former seasonal variations ironed out of performance, the chairman anticipates a year's profit of around £1.5m.

For shareholders there will be a maximum final dividend giving a total for the year of 6.7p gross. They can also cash in on cut-price suits, Gieves & Hawkes now offer 20 per cent discount to holders of more than 200 shares.

## Maxlim suspended after 'insolvency' warning

Continuing trading losses and "the possibility of the company's insolvency" have led the board of Maxlim Fashion—formerly Maxlim Maternity Fashions—to ask for the shares to be suspended yesterday.

Mr. A. D. Marks, who became chairman and managing director in October 1975, resigned last June. The last results from the group covered the six months to October 31, 1976, and showed that pre-tax losses had risen from £32,000 to £40,000 despite a rise in turnover from £158,000 to £225,000.

The group has been in the red since 1974. It has never approached the profits of £71,000 for the year to November, 1966—the year it went public. For the record, the placing price was 20p for every 10 new shares.

At one time in 1975 they were 23p.

**FURNACE WILKIN**

Co offering for sale to residents of Trinidad and Tobago shares in sub Furnace Wilkin Ltd at £1 and £2. Offer for sale of £500,000.

**JOHN MICHAEL**

After reducing losses for year

## Briefly

to January 29 board considers that co is returning to steady growth and profitability.

**BURNS-ANDERSON**

Chairman told AGM that turnover has increased by about 20 per cent in the first 3 months of present financial year. Also margins in some subs were improving.

**WALTER LAWRENCE**

Co has bought for £1.4m cash light engineering group, Latham and Owen, which will increase group's interests in engineering and DIY market.

**CELESTION-WOOD BASTOW**

Wood Bastow to make scrip issue of 3 for 1 so form of Celestion offer (value unchanged) now £23 cash for every 10 new shares. In Wood or 6 Celestion shares for 80 new Wood ord.

**WOOD HALL TRUST**

Only three operations of Wood Hall, the Australian subsidiary of Wood Hall Trust, have been trading since they were set up in 1974.

## A steady advance at Bruxelles Lambert

## International

Brussels—Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA says that results for the six months to September 30 are in line with budget plans. These aim at a steady improvement in the bank's operating profits.

However, the bank did not state earnings figures, nor did it project profits for the year.

The bank said its balance sheet total at September 30 rose 11.8 per cent over September last year to 433 billion francs.

The bank said that this rise reflected a gain to Fr237 billion (Fr212 billion) in customer deposits, and an increase to Fr151 billion (Fr123 billion) in banking deposits.

Credits granted to the private sector rose 9.2 per cent to Fr185 billion and public sector credits by 11.3 per cent to Fr128 billion—Reuters.

**Brinco hit**

Brinco, 66 per cent owned by RTZ, reports a net loss of £139,000 for the months to September 30, compared with net earnings of £420,000 for the same months in 1976. This change was mainly as a result of a fall in short term interest rates. The net loss was about \$3.1m on the Labrador Uranium project during this period and working capital at the end of it was \$48.8m.

**Dart Industries**

Dart Industries of California, engaged in manufacturing and marketing consumer products, chemicals and plastics, reports a record third quarter and nine-month earnings per share for the period ended September 30. Mr. Justin Dart, chairman,

and Mr. Thomas Mullaney, president, are confident that results will be comfortably ahead of the \$101.6m (about \$62.7m) in net earnings or \$4.14 per share earned in 1976. Net earnings for the third quarter of 1977 were \$24.4m compared with \$21.8m in the third quarter of 1976. Sales totalled \$393m in the 1977 quarter compared with \$362m in the prior year period. For the first nine months of 1977, net earnings were \$81.5m on sales of \$1,100m. In the comparable 1976 period, net earnings were \$76.3m.

**Sears and Woolworth**

F. W. Woolworth had sales in the month to October 25 of \$415.9m, an increase of 8.4 per cent on a year earlier.

Sears Roebuck reported that sales in the month ended October 29 were \$1.6 billion, 18 per cent up on the year before.—AP-Dow Jones.

**Jacques Borel Int**

Paris—Jacques Borel, the siling restaurant and not yet out of the wood. The first half 1977 net loss was Fr94m against a Frim profit. Borel said that the figures are not comparable because certain provisions have been included in the 1977 loss. But it gave no details.

The group said that for 1977 as a whole it will show a loss, but next year the measures it has taken should have some effect.—Reuters.

## Business appointments

## Barclays Merchant Bank promotes vice-chairman

Mr. Deryk Weyer has been elected chairman of Barclays Merchant Bank in succession to Mr. Charles B. M. Weyer, who has been vice-chairman of Barclays Merchant Bank since March.

Mr. Weyer, who has been a director of Barclays Merchant Bank since 1974, will become a non-executive director. Mr. Mark Milbank and Mr. Eric Oliver have retired from the board.

Mr. Ian McIntosh has been made director and manager of Craven Bank (Woodville), which is a subsidiary of Barclays Merchant Bank. Mr. McIntosh becomes sales director of Craven Tasker (Andover).

Mr. J. D. Costigan is now a director of Dunlop Engineering Group.

Mr. Richard Scotcher has been made managing director of Ransomes Grass Machinery (Scotland).

Mr. David Barclay has become a director of Ian McCall International.

Mr. N. R. Godwin is the new director and deputy managing director of The Royal Trust Company of Canada.

Mr. Richard Meyjes is now chairman of Coates Brothers in succession to Mr. John Coates, who has retired.

Mr. Geoffrey Dring, general secretary, National and Local Government Officers' Association, has been elected a member of the National Economic Development Council.

## CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

## TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

The Government of Sierra Leone is inviting Tenders for the supply of TWO MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTERS as specified below:—

- 2 x 10 KW Medium Wave Transmitters
- New Aerial Array System
- Electrical Installation/Accessories
- Rehabilitation of existing building
- Test Equipment

2. Tenders for the supply of the above are limited to the following major electronics firms currently manufacturing, and are being solicited on the basis of international competitive bidding:—

- Marconi, Chelmsford, England
- Rhode & Schwarz, Munich, West Germany
- Brown Boveri, Zurich, Switzerland
- Thomas-CSF, France
- R.C.A., Jersey, England
- N.E.C. Tokyo, Japan
- S.P.A. Radionica.

3. Tender may be selected from the point of view of technical excellence of product, easy access to spares, technical maintenance guarantees; delivery period, installation and training terms, and cost of equipment.

4. Tender documents can be collected as from 21st October, 1977 either in person from:—  
The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,  
Freetown  
or by mail by writing to:—

- The Head of Chancery, Sierra Leone High Commission, 33 Portland Place, London, W.1.
- The Head of Chancery, Sierra Leone Embassy, 69 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, Paris 75008, France.
- The Sierra Leone Embassy, Ubiertstrasse 83, Bad Godesberg, West Germany.
- Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Via Paolo Frisi, 44, 00197—Italy

on payment of a deposit of L50 (fifty-leones) which will be refundable on receipt of a bona fide tender.

5. Tenders should be sent to the addresses listed above in sealed envelopes marked TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS before noon on Tuesday, 29th November, 1977.

6. The Government of Sierra Leone does not bind itself to accept the highest or lowest tenders.

P. G. DEIGH,  
Permanent Secretary.

## Business Opportunities

## ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS

required to introduce Europe's largest-selling flexible conduit system. Must have good connections with wholesalers and the electrical industry in general.

Please contact Mr. K. Stralford  
S.C.S. Ltd., Plastics & Engineering Division  
87-87, Church Road  
Aldershot, Hants GU11 1LG.

## LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PREMISES IN CONSERVATION AREA

of popular tourist district of Loch Lomond with modern four-bedroom bungalow and country cottage; room for further development; petrol filling station ready for use; for sale by private owner.

Please write in first instance to Box 3900 J. The Times.

## SELL JEWELLERY

In your spare time, or full time, sell your surplus jewellery to friends and relations. All jewellery supplied at manufacturer's prices. No sale or return basis. Set and 18ct diamond rings, chains, gold bracelets, I.D. brooches, etc.

Phone Jordan Jewels, 61-63, St. Paul's Church, London, for full details of this genuine offer.

## Investment and Finance

**PRESSINGS**

Dress shop required with minimum 10 presses and 100-150 sq ft or larger. Advantageous terms. Presses, complicated by lower tonnage unit for manufacturing. Outright purchase or lease. Administration, rent and maintenance essential.

Box 1510 J. THE TIMES.

## Plastic Mouldings

Plastic mouldings company required, outright purchase or partnership. South-western area. Capacity: Thermoset materials and injection moulding essential.

Box 1510 J. THE TIMES.

## Commercial Services

TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE. 24 hours. 01-464 1655.

## COMPANY NOTICES

**THE EAST SURREY WATER**

NOTICE is hereby given that the REGISTERED MEMBERS of the EAST SURREY WATER CLOSING BOOKS, who have not yet paid their contributions, are requested to do so by the 15th day of November, 1977, to enable the books to be closed.

By Order of the Board  
J. F. M. ROBERTS  
15th November, 1977.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**GRANT LONDON COUNCIL**

NOTICE is hereby given that the GRANT LONDON COUNCIL, which was incorporated in England on 1st January 1977, is now a company limited by guarantee.

By Order of the Board  
J. C. SWAFFIELD  
15th November, 1977.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**THE ARBY PARTNERSHIP**

NOTICE is hereby given that the ARBY PARTNERSHIP, which was formed on 1st January 1977, is now a company limited by guarantee.

By Order of the Board  
J. C. SWAFFIELD  
15th November, 1977.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948**

NOTICE is hereby given that the COMPANIES ACTS 1948, which were passed by the House of Commons on 1st January 1977, are now in force.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Kwik Save's formula may not be enough

Bryan Appleyard

Having increased sales by 66 per cent and pre-tax profits by as much as £8.6m Kwik Save Discount Group now faces a problem of maintaining margins in an atmosphere of intensifying competition and rising wage costs.

This is precisely what the group managed to do in the past year by some well-judged buying of tea and coffee, a 26 per cent growth in sales area and impressive ability to under-

But the cost was £3m worth tea and coffee stocks at the end, now run down to 50c, and a turnaround from a bank balance of £1.25m to a deficit of £850,000.

This, combined with the 25m warehouse for the new London warehouse, justified yesterday's two-for-twenty-five

It can be seen as a small price to pay for the kind of commitment that Kwik Save has shown during the year. A further 30 stores adding 10 per cent to sales area this

It suggests the drive is continuing unabated. But straightforward geographical growth may not be enough in the food retailing

tor. Kwik Save has specifically invested in small stores, sitting at rock bottom prices

fewer lines. It is a policy that must have a degree of risk if possible incomes are really

for a substantial increase. So, stores with a wider choice of plenty of premium lines

are expected to win the business. Kwik Save is

staunchly saying that wage rises should be held to 13 per cent this year, though, even

at that level, a narrowing of margins seems inevitable. The management should push its 11m pre-tax this year. The

res fell 16p to 240p yesterday. Kwik Save is on a 25p where they are on a 25p where they are on a 25p

## UBM advances after 3 years of retreat

By Desmond Quigley

The profits decline over the past three years at UBM, the builders' merchants group, appears to be over. There was a 43 per cent pre-tax profit increase from £1.1m to £1.5m in the six months to the end of August.

However, a near doubled tax charge and a decline in extraordinary credits, sent attributable profits down slightly to £1.06m.

The profits were well short of best market expectations of around £2m, but the sign that the group's reorganization now appears to be paying off led to the shares rising by 14p to 68 1/2p yesterday.

An unchanged interim dividend of 2.7p a share, gross has been declared. If the dividend for the year is unchanged the shares are yielding 9.2 per cent.

And it should be maintained because the group seems to be on an upward tack, and cover a further 30 stores adding 10 per cent to sales area this

The group managed its 43 per cent pre-tax profit increase on a 16 per cent rise in turnover to £33m, demonstrating

the way its operations have been pruned. Moreover it seems likely that UBM is highly geared to any upturn in the market and would be able to increase sales rapidly with few extra overheads.

Despite generally poor trading conditions, UBM reports that the merchandising division made a significant improvement. The prospects for the rest of the year look reasonably encouraging in this sector thanks to an increase in private housing starts in Scotland and the North East.

However, the group reports that the stimulus provided for the building industry in last week's Budget is unlikely to have any impact in the current financial year.

Progress was made at the Bradford merchandising company and UBM engineering, and both are expected to be in profit by the end of the year.

In June, Equity Capital for Industry £2.7m into the group in a controversial move which gave ECI a near 11 per cent equity stake, roughly the same size as the stake already held by M & G.

For the first time in several days there was talk of a rally today in after-hours trading. With the index falling nearly 40 points over the last nine days

Down a further 2p to 55p yesterday, Croda International is well away from the 67p of September. Growth has slowed down temporarily and the shares have been pushed along with the rest of the chemical sector now that the pound is rising instead of falling. But the market as a whole holds up. Croda may now have been pushed enough. Exposure to exports is a lot less than among other chemical shares, and the group seems on course for £17m in profits this year against £15.2m last time.

many dealers feel that the industrial leaders are looking overbought. While they do not expect anything spectacular they would not be surprised to see the index consolidate in a trading range with 49.5 as its top level. Among the industrial leaders ICI continued to be sold heavily losing another 7p to 36p, while big exporting names like Lucas 8p to 29p, Metal Box 6p to

25p, and Glaxo 8p to 59p also had a hard time. Recently the last named was as high as 66p on hopes of a dividend boosting move.

Against the background of better news on the industrial front BOC held firm at 72 1/2p while the lists for the IMI shares formerly held by ICI were oversubscribed, going against worst market fears.

Another big name in the lime-light was Hoover which dipped no less than 35p to 36p, after news which were well below market expectations. Reed Group continued to react to this week's statement, shedding another 6p to 140p, while both Rank 4p to 238p and Sun Alliance 20p to 57p lost property deals.

Another result awaited with interest was that from Kwik Save Discount. When it came the shares dipped a full 16p to 240p on a rights issue and 100 per cent scrip. But the main

reason for the reaction was the size of the accompanying dividend increase which was not up to some expectations.

International Combustion went against the trend with a gain of 2p to 96p on news of an increase in dividend.

The fear that industrial action by the miners would disrupt coal supplies unduly, bore heavily on AAB which closed 10p lower at 88p while in the stores sector MFI continued to react from recent strength with a loss of 4p to 95p.

In the financial sector the performance of the gilt market hit the discount houses with Unilever losing 30p to 420p, Gillett Brothers 15p to 215p, Allen Harvey & Ross 30p to 510p and Alexander 20p to 240p.

The clearing banks held steady with the exception of Midland which shed 3p to 337p, while over in properties Ham-merson 'A' dipped 17p to 533p ahead of figures. Other weak

spots were to be found in Land Securities 6p to 201p and Great Portland which slipped 6p to 280p.

In the mining sector the hope of better diamond prices lifted De Beers Dfd 20p to 252p, while golds £1 or so better included Western Deep Levels at £7.75, Randfontein at £29.25 and West Driefontein where there was an exceptional gain of £2 to £21.37.

Ons were a sector to gain particular benefit from the late firmness, with BP 6p better at 876p and Shell four points ahead at 552p. S Osborn 1p to 80p, Weir Group 6p to 120p and Spink 3p to 293p were counters to lose ground in the absence of further takeover news. Both Diploma Investments 10p to 343p and Pork Farms 13p to 164p were two shares to go lower as recent speculative support dried up, while another weak stock was to be found in J Woodhead which slipped 12p to 226p on persistent selling.

After news that some directors had sold up to half a million shares, Dixons Photographic went further to 173p. But a new seller appeared and the shares dipped to 163p, off 6p on balance. The second line was thought to be around 150,000 shares and to come from an institution.

Figures of Pritchard Services left the shares trading lower at 29p and Acrow 'A' were at an unchanged 30p, after announcing an export-led rise in profits. Glaxo shaded easier at 82p.

In anticipation of a rally today, a firmer trend developed in after hours trading based mainly on "bargain hunting".

The industrial leaders gained a few pence and building shares also started to pick up. Hoggons Brewery edged higher after figures, but Messrs Engineering went lower as dealers were not too happy with figures. Kwik Save stayed at its depressed level of earlier in the session after the rights but both banks and discounts made up some lost ground, especially Union which added a few pence.

Equity turnover on November 2 was £104.15m (19,682 bargains). Active stocks, yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were CFI, Glaxo, Dixons, Imperial Group, European Ferries, GEC, Acrow, Coral, House of Fraser, Rascal, Dairy Mail 'A', Distillers, Pork Farms, Diploma Inv, Consolidated Gold Fields, De Beers, Macmillan, Hoover, Kwik Save and Union Discount.

## Stock markets

## Now gilts are sold heavily as pound wilts

Some late bargain hunting could not disguise the continuing nervousness of the equity market against a background of growing industrial unrest.

Dealers reported an increasing reluctance by investors to undertake genuine investment buying and small offerings were enough to lower the FT Index another 10.8 by 3 pm. It closed 6.2 off at 479.8 as buyers came in but still recorded a ninth consecutive day of half share trading.

A sudden slump in sterling also depressed equities but made an even more dramatic impact on gilt-edged stocks which were lowered two and three-quarter points at one stage on heavy selling, much of it said to be from abroad. By the end, longer dates had rallied to levels of £2 while "shorts" shed £1 after being £1.50 down earlier in the session.

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## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pav	Year's
Int or Fia	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Acrow (I)	73.52(58.24)	5.29(4.01)	1.37(1.25)	7.4	(2.25)	1.6(1.5)
Ang Scot Int (F)	—	0.42(0.72)	1.59(1.48)	4.1	—	1.6(1.5)
Ayres (I)	5.88(9.1)	0.40(0.25)	1.1(1.0)	16.12	—	1.3(1.4)
Brit-Borneo Pt (I)	—	0.47(0.45)	—	16.12	—	1.6(1.8)
Fortnum & M (I)	—	0.65(0.2)	—	29.12	—	(20.8)
Glaxo (I)	15.1(11.6)	1.21(0.1)	0.75(0.75)	16.12	—	(4)
Hoover (I)	141.1(122.76)	8.62(12.36)	20(41)	5.61(5.54)	16.12	(13.7)
Int Com (S Int)	—	—	—	9.09	—	12.09(5.43)
Kwik Save (F)	92.3(91.9)	8.61(5.2)	12.3(8.40)	2.9(2.5)	—	4.4(3.9)
Mess Eng (F)	9.7(9.4)	0.02(0.13)	0.02(0.13)	3.31(2.3)	—	4.14(3.7)
Lever Opt (F)	1.11(0.97)	0.15(0.10)	34.26(4.46)	NI(1.2)	—	NI(1.2)
Lever (I)	1.5(1.3)	0.06(0.03)	1.68(1.0)	—	—	1.05(0.35)
Robertson (I)	—	0.02(0.01)	—	1.50(1.44)	—	—
Wm. Low (F)	48.7(36.7)	1.6(0.9)	19.45(7.17)	3.8(3.4)	5.1	5.4(4.9)
J. Michael (I)	—	0.09(0.32)	—	NI(NI)	—	NI(NI)
Mitchell Cotts (F)	8.0(6.9)	0.84(0.76)	7.65(8.14)	2.18(2.6)	12/12	3.34(2.99)
Scott (F)	9.7(9.4)	0.92(1.0)	3.31(2.3)	6.1	—	4.14(3.7)
Novotex (I)	2.3(2.2)	0.13(0.13)	2.33(1.84)	NI(NI)	—	NI(NI)
N Throgmorton (I)	—	0.24(0.45)	0.78(0.56)	0.45(0.45)	1.5c(1.5)	—
Pritchard Ser (I)	—	0.57(0.77)	—	0.57(0.43)	12/12	(1.3)
Roberts Adair (I)	3.9(3.7)	0.25(0.24)	—	5.64(5.16)	1/12	(9.9)
S&P Linked Int (I)	—	—	—	0.65(0.58)	16.1	(1.2)
Scott Heritable (I)	6.1(4.8)	0.25(0.21)	3.93(3.23)	1.33(0.45)	9/12	1.1(0.78)
Southern Bahr (F)	0.68(0.46)	0.15(0.04)	—	1.4(1.1)	3/1	(4.1)
Trust Union (I)	—	0.65(0.56)	—	1.7(1.7)	—	(NI)
UBM Group (I)	92.2(80.2)	1.51(1.1)	—	(NI)	—	(NI)
UK Prop (I)	—	0.26(0.21)	—	5.7(5.1)	9/12	—
Wemyss Int (F)	—	0.46(0.40)	—	6.75(6.7)	16/1	10.75(9.5)
BS&W Wharf (I)	2.7(3.0)	0.05(0.16)	—	NI(NU)	—	(0.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a For nine months. b Loss. c Forecast.

## Good news from Pritchard

Record interim figures and indications that profits for this year should top £2m for first time are happy news. Shareholders of Pritchard Services Group.

In the six months to July 3, pre-tax profits of the group which claims to be Britain's best building services organisation involved in everything in office and city cleaning to unity and timber preserva-

tion, increased by 25.7 per cent to a record £972,000. Group sales for the same period went up 10 per cent.

Most companies in the group were able to contribute to these improved profits. But as yet no account has been taken of earnings which are expected to come this year from the group's major role in the £140m contract for the city cleansing programme for the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh.

Extracts from the statement of Mr. William Burns, Chairman, for the year ended June 30th, 1977:

\* Profit before tax increased from £410,530 to £433,453.

\* Earnings per share increased from 6.4p to 7.0p per share.

\* Dividend increased by maximum permitted and cover increased to 5.1 times.

\* Nett assets increased to 48.9p per share.

\* Company expanding in UK and overseas.

ba

Burns-Anderson Limited

Industrial Holding Group

Roseley Grove, Redditch, Staffs, B97 7DP. Telephone: 361 432 0801. Telegrams: Burnand Stockport.

Subsidiaries in: motor vehicle distribution, shop and bank fitting, steel bar reinforcement, property and building development, electrical appliance distribution.

## LRC INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to:-

Lloyds Bank Limited,  
Registrar's Department,  
Goring-by-Sea,  
Worthing West Sussex BN12 6DA.  
Telephone: Worthing 502541  
(STD Code 3903).

R.N. FERHAM,  
Director and Secretary

## Engineer Acrow flies high on back of exports boom

By Alison Mitchell

Exports are making all the running at engineering group Acrow. With the United Kingdom market virtually stagnant in the six months to September 30 last, the group has turned more and more to overseas sales for growth. In the period, exports rose by a quarter to £41.9m and these are likely to grow even further as the group expands its horizons and markets.

Acrow, the world's largest manufacturer of pre-fabricated bridges, already exports almost its entire United Kingdom production and from this division more than 70 per cent of its revenues are also sent abroad.

Mr. William de Vigier,

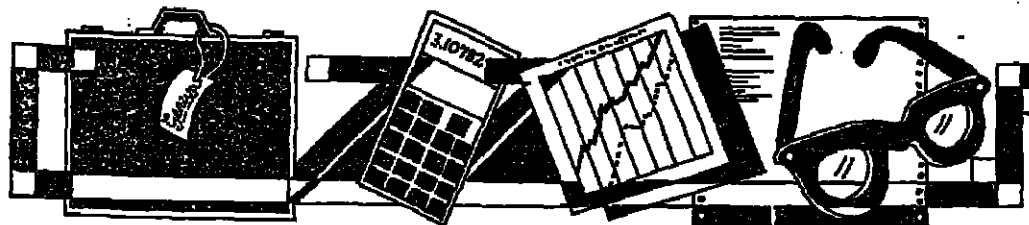




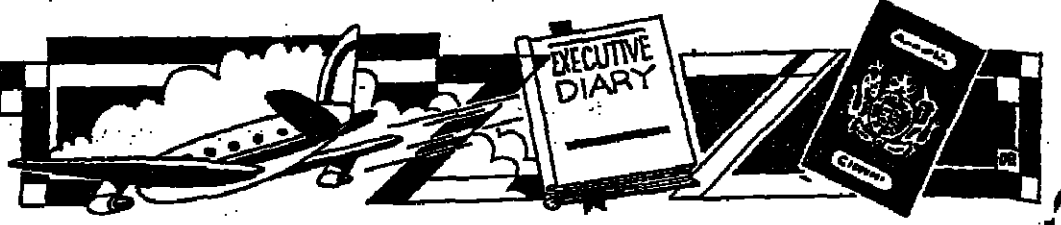








£6,000 plus appointments



# HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

## SALARY

Le20,000 per annum (consolidated).

## AGE

Not less than 35 years.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant must be in possession of a valid Helicopter Maintenance Engineer's Licence with at least categories A, B, C, and X on the Bolkow type (German), and the Hughes 500 type (Swedish) helicopters.

Must have had not less than 5 years' post-qualification experience on helicopters, particularly the Bolkow.

## DUTIES

The Engineer will be responsible to the Ministry of Defence Sierra Leone for

(i) Setting up of an approved maintenance base with required stocks of both bonded and quarantine spares for the maintenance and operation of both types of helicopters.

(ii) Advising the Ministry on the general operation / replacement of major components of these helicopters.

(iii) Proper supervision of other Staff engaged in helicopter maintenance.

## CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Appointment on contract for one tour of service in the first instance but renewable. Duration of tour 18-24 months. Vacation leave of 30 days per annum. Contract gratuity of 15% of basic salary payable at the satisfactory completion of a tour of service. Other conditions of service will be in accordance with those applicable to the Sierra Leone Government Service.

Application forms are obtainable from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Tower Hill, Freetown or from any District Office in the Provinces, or from the Sierra Leone High Commission, 33 Portland Place, London, W.1, or from the Sierra Leone Embassy, Soboulsky Pereoluk No. 5A Moscow, U.S.S.R. or from the Sierra Leone Embassy, Unterstrasse 88 Bad Godesberg, West Germany. Completed application forms should reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission not later than 10th November, 1977.

## MIDDLE EAST

An aggressive company in the Middle East specializing in the sales of Electrical, Mechanical, Building Materials and Hospital Supplies have the following openings:

### 1. GENERAL SALES MANAGER

Candidate will need to be a good planner, organiser, and of sound commercial knowledge. Duties will include Directing, Motivating, Monitoring the technical sales engineers, maintaining minimum level stocks and placing orders. Preparing and meeting sales forecasts, and maintaining a reliable reporting system. Promoting the sales of products and establishing good personal and company relationships with the clients.

Applicant is envisaged to be about 35-45 years old with special sales training. A detailed CV will be necessary to assess the capabilities. Remuneration will include a salary of £10,000 plus furnished accommodation, car, one month holidays, air tickets and other fringe benefits.

### 2. ELECTRICAL TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES proficient in at least two of the following fields:

- Wires & Cables, Electrical Accessories.
- Systems, fire, Burglar, Nurse Call, Sound and Paging.
- Switchgear and Motor Control.

### 3. APPLIED BUILDING MATERIALS SALES REPRESENTATIVES proficient in the sales of at least two of the following:

- Roofing Materials, Insulating and Water-proofing.
- False Ceiling & Lighting Systems.
- Flooring, P.V.C., Timber, etc.
- Expansion joints, Girders, concrete admixture, etc.

The duties of the representatives will include meeting consultants and obtaining orders from the contractors and retailers.

Remuneration will allow for a salary of about £7,500, furnished accommodation, car, one month's vacation, air tickets, and possible other fringe benefits for applicants of outstanding capabilities.

All replies in confidence to Mr. Ghassien, 42 Hertford Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 7TF.

## Economists

Standards of Living & Income Distribution

The Department of Health and Social Security has a vacancy for an Economic Adviser in London.

Applications are invited from Economists (aged at least 27) with good qualifications in methods of quantitative analysis for a post providing advice on the effects of government policies on comparative standards of living. Applicants should be capable of developing new analytical techniques.

The Economic Advisers' Office is responsible for advising Ministers and senior officials on the economic implications of policies over the whole field of Health and Personal Social Services and Social Security expenditure.

The appointment will initially be a temporary one of between two and five years. Starting salary will be in the range £8,867-£8,457 (according to age, qualifications and experience).

For an application form (to be returned by 25 November, 1977) please write to: Mrs. C. Bedwell, DHSS, Hybridge House, 1 Adam Street, London WC2N 6AB (Tel. 01-217 4722).

Company in the Steel sector with modern offices in Mayfair is looking for a

## QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

with knowledge of languages, Greek desirable but not essential. Applicants are requested to send full particulars including salary required.

Box No. 2776 J, The Times.

## POST OFFICE ENGINEERING UNION

### GENERAL TREASURER (DESIGNATE)

The post of General Treasurer to the Post Office Engineering Union will become vacant in 1978. The Union invites applications for the post of General Treasurer (Designate). Candidates must be able to demonstrate a record of service to the Trade Union movement. Applications will be treated in confidence.

The salary in 1977 terms is £8,925-£9,100 per annum. There is a Contributory Superannuation Scheme in operation with a normal retirement age of 60.

Application forms together with further information about the post can be obtained by written request and should be returned not later than the 1st December 1977, addressed to the General Secretary, Post Office Engineering Union, Greystoke House, 150 Brunswick Road, Ealing, W5 1AW.

## SECURITIES ANALYST CARIBBEAN AREA—TAX-FREE

A person with chartered accountant or similar accounting experience, able to analyse securities and investments, and with at least five years' experience required. Either part- or full-time—would particularly suit someone within age range 50-65. Salary would be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please send curriculum vitae including details of work and experience and salary presently earned and expected, to:

BOX 2775 J, THE TIMES

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

ASSOCIATED BOOK PUBLISHERS (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED

A Managing Director is required for this major company, which forms part of the well-known international Associated Book Publishers Group.

The Company is based in Sydney with branches in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth, and has overall responsibility for the New Zealand operation. Some 250 staff are employed, and the Company is engaged in the publishing of legal, academic, school, general and children's books. It is responsible for the marketing within the area of the whole ABP list, and also handles a number of agencies on behalf of other publishers.

Candidates will be between 37 and 50, which is the upper limit, and will be thoroughly experienced publishers, preferably, but not essentially of books. They will have demonstrably successful records in general management particularly in the fields of administration and finance; and will be, or have been, responsible for significant profit-centres during their careers. A mature, well-balanced personality is clearly necessary for this extremely important and demanding role: while experience in Australia and a commitment to the country are equally essential.

The salary envisaged is in the region of \$A 38,000 to \$A 40,000 p.a., with a number of additional benefits.

Applicants based in Australia, New Zealand and the Far East should apply to Box 393, P.O. Milsens Point, Sydney 2061, Australia, and will be handled confidentially by an international consulting firm.

Those based elsewhere in the world, including the U.K., should please get into touch with Roger Stacey, Astron Appointments Limited, 20-24 Uxbridge Street, London W8 7TA. Telephone London 229 9171 or 6423.

## Royal Naval Officer

Required for a contract appointment for 3 years with the possibility of an extension as FLOTILLA WEAPONS ELECTRICAL OFFICER, ROYAL BRUNEI MALAY REGIMENT.

An excellent opportunity for a recently retired RN Officer or one who is due to retire shortly. You should be under 45 and preferably have a degree in Electrical Engineering and have spent the last 12 months of WE Specialisation to include the operation and maintenance of modern weapons systems including surface to surface missiles, military radio and radar equipment.

The Flotilla is a small well equipped unit and will be commissioning new vessels shortly. In view of its size the WE Officer will be expected to play an active role in ensuring that all equipment is maintained in a state of readiness. There will be some sea-going commitment.

SALARY IN EXCESS OF £10,000 A YEAR PLUS GRATUITY OF 25% BOTH TAX FREE. OTHER BENEFITS INCLUDE FREE HOUSING, UNIFORMS, ELDERLY ALLOWANCE AND TELEPHONE FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL, INTEREST FREE CAR LOAN, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES ETC.

Apply with CV marked Staff in Confidence to Head of Recruitment

**Crown Agents**

The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations, Appointments Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD.

## TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

## NIGERIA

### Financial Controller

An experienced financial controller is required for a major Nigerian corporation engaged in energy engineering and construction. The applicant must be a Chartered Accountant and/or Management Accountant with solid experience at high levels of responsibility and with a good history of work in the construction industry. Experience in developing countries is an asset. The controller will be responsible for a trained staff at the Lagos headquarters. Good salary and benefits within a pleasant working environment. This post requires a dynamic professional.

### Transport Manager

An experienced transport manager is required for a major Nigerian energy engineering corporation with extensive operations throughout the country of Nigeria. The applicant should have held a similar position before and have had some experience in developing countries. The position requires managing a large operating fleet of vehicles and machinery and organizing an effective system for their efficient utilization and maintenance. There are provisions for a good salary and benefit plan.

Please reply with full information on experience, stating current salary to: MULTITREES LTD, 1 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AJ.

## The Hongkong Electric Group

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

WITH ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL SERVICES LIMITED

The consulting and contracting subsidiary of the Hongkong Electric Group of Companies requires qualified project engineering personnel to work on one of the biggest transmission projects in the Middle East.

This multi-million U.S. dollar contract, scheduled to be completed in two years' time, will involve project works for the transmission system in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Immediate requirement is for:

### ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER (Electrical)

To assist Project Manager to act for a consortium consisting of two major contractors/suppliers to negotiate with client, Consulting Engineer and Local Authority on engineering matters. He is required to co-ordinate various contractors on programming handling over sites or parts of the sites, monitoring progress and completion of all installations. The project involves supply and erection of 132KV and 23KV switchgear and transformers underground of filled cable, transmission lines and ancillary building works for the switching station and substation.

Applicants should preferably be Chartered Electrical Engineers with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above mentioned fields.

This appointment is of bachelor status with salary of \$35,000 to \$40,000 per annum plus 10% bonus to be paid at the end of the contract period. Benefits include free accommodation and meals, one month's home leave every six working months with passages paid for, medical benefits and transport allowance.

If you are confident of meeting our requirements, and interested in gaining valuable project experience, please write or telephone immediately for application forms and further details from:

The Administrative Officer,

HONGKONG ELECTRIC HOLDINGS LIMITED,

Bonnie House, 82-83 Mark Lane,

London EC3R 7DU. Telephone (01) 481 1373.

## Deputy Controller of Small Business Unit

Salary up to £6,600 pa

## Welsh Development Agency

The Agency is seeking a Deputy Controller for its Small Business Unit. The Unit makes loans and provides advisory services to small businesses throughout Wales.

The successful candidate would be responsible, subject to the guidance of the Controller, for the direction of some twenty-five staff operating at Branch Offices throughout the Principality.

He or she would be required, from time to time, to prepare reports on the progress of the Unit's work and on the problems of clients, whether of a general nature or particular, and to recommend solutions to such problems.

In addition, he or she would assist the scrutiny of proposals for loans submitted to the Branch Offices and would co-ordinate the provision of

training facilities.

Applicants should be familiar with the needs of small businesses. A knowledge of urban and rural Welsh industry and a good background of business management, preferably with a professional qualification will be required.

Salary will be in the range £6,100 to £6,600 pa, together with generous car and leave allocations.

Please write or telephone for an application form, to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

Personnel Department (Ref 157L), Welsh Development Agency, Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 5UT. Tel: Treforest (044 385) 2666, Ext. 262.

Ministry of Defence (Navy Dept.)

## Naval Historian

(£6250-£7620)

... to provide historical information on matters of policy and operations for the use of the Naval Staff and Commands, and to write Naval Staff Histories. The successful candidate will be appointed to the Naval Historical Branch in London.

Candidate should normally be at least 35, and must have a knowledge of Naval Staff procedure and Naval operational techniques. They must also have the ability to synthesize large quantities of documents and to write lucidly.

Evidence of published material and previous commissioned service in the Royal Navy advantageous. Salary, starting at £6250, rises to £7620. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 23 November, 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (02561) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/9639.

## PENSION SALES MANAGER

We are proposing to expand our pension sales substantially and are looking for the right man or woman to develop and lead our pension sales force.

He or she will currently have extensive experience of negotiating pension schemes and of the management of pension sales people. The right person may be holding a second in command position now and looking for an opportunity to move to the top.

This senior post will carry a substantial salary together with performance related bonus. A car and usual fringe benefits will be part of the package. Anyone currently earning less than £7,000 p.a. is unlikely to have had the relevant experience. The position will be based on London.

Please write, in the first instance, giving age and brief details of your career to:

W.G. Collins, Group Manager,  
Sun Life Assurance Company  
of Canada,  
2, 3 & 4, Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5BH.

appointment of

## Director

(male or female)

### Dental Unit

The Council invites applications for the post of DIRECTOR of a new Dental Unit to come into being in 1978. The first choice for the location of the new unit is Bristol but other locations are not excluded. The research programme of the new unit will be a matter for discussion between the new director and the Council, having regard to the particular interests of the candidate selected.

Candidates should be persons of high scientific standing—preferably, but not necessarily, with a dental qualification—and proven ability in managing a research team.

The salary will be within the range for the Council's Special Appointments Grade, which is equivalent to the universities' professorial range.

Further information about the appointment, the present unit, the Council's policy for future work in this field, and the form in which applications should be submitted, may be obtained from Miss N. Jones, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL.

**MRC**

Medical Research Council

The final date for the receipt of applications is Friday, 23 December 1977.

## SALES-COPY MACHINES

MALE/FEMALE. Experienced copy machine salesman to sell the MINOLTA SAYIN SAXON ROYAL OCE MYTA COPIERS in the eastern USA. Compensation \$50,000 per year and up. All travel and USA accommodation paid. Send resume to:

Edward Taylor,  
GREAT WESTERN CORPORATION,  
PO Box 92, Hooksett, New Hampshire, USA 03106.  
Or call area code 603 829-2496, call collect.

## Appointments Vacant also on page 25

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University College Cardiff  
Applications are invited for the post of

### TUTORIAL FELLOW

in the

### DEPARTMENT OF LAW

The above fellowship carries the duties of undertaking research in law and of carrying out a research project. The appointee will be expected to publish research results in the field of law.

Applicants (2 copies) giving a brief curriculum vitae and two references, should be sent to the Department of Law, University College Cardiff, PO Box 231, Cardiff CF1 1TL, from whom the closing date may be obtained. Closing date 21st November 1977. Please quote reference 1577. Please quote

Applicants (2 copies) giving a brief curriculum vitae and two references, should be sent to the Department of Law, University College Cardiff, PO Box 231, Cardiff CF1 1TL, from whom the closing date may be obtained. Closing date 21st November 1977. Please quote reference 1577. Please quote

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Applicants (2 copies) giving a brief curriculum vitae and two references, should be sent to



# Middle East Appointments

## BENDIX-SIYANCO A JOINT VENTURE

### MALE REGISTERED NURSES SAUDI ARABIA

Bendix-Siyanco operates a small company Hospital in Riyadh and has need of British SRNs.

Plus completion bonus  
plus free  
vacations and home leave  
year contract  
other benefits

Interested SRNs should reply to:

#### MEDICAL EMPLOYMENT

**BENDIX-SIYANCO**  
Employment Office  
P.O. Box 3453  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## BENDIX-SIYANCO A JOINT VENTURE

### DENTAL POSITIONS SAUDI ARABIA

- DENTIST
- DENTAL TECHNICIAN
- ORAL HYGIENIST
- DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dentist position is family authorized assignment. Technician, Hygienist, and Assistant positions are single status (male) with bachelor housing provided.

Excellent salaries, plus:

- COMPLETION BONUS
- SUBSIDISED MEALS
- MEDICAL/DENTAL CARE
- RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- PAID VACATION TIME
- PAID VACATION TRAVEL

Interested male applicants should send letter with resume to:

**DENTAL EMPLOYMENT**  
**BENDIX-SIYANCO**  
P.O. Box 3453  
RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

## SULTANATE OF OMAN ARMY APPOINTMENTS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Officers of the British Army who have recently retired, or are due to complete full-time service within the next 3 to 4 months, to fill uniformed contract appointments of 3 years duration in the Oman Army in the following categories:

### INFANTRY COMPANY OFFICER

(in the rank of Captain) (Ref. No.: 49)  
To undertake normal military duties in an Oman Infantry Battalion, and to act as adviser on Unit training and administration. Applicants must be fully fit for field duty, and have served recently at least at Company 2/1 level in a British Infantry Battalion. Active service experience, service in an Arab country, a knowledge of spoken Arabic, and a JDSC qualification would all be useful attributes. (Age limit: 35.)

### INFANTRY COMPANY COMMANDER

(in the rank of Major) (Ref. No.: 49/C)  
To command Companies in a newly re-organised regiment of Jebeli tribesmen. Applicants must be fully fit for field duty, have had at least 2 years experience with a British Infantry Battalion, and have held a command appointment at Company or equivalent level in a combatant British Army Unit. Previous service in the Oman, particularly in the Dhofar area, would be a distinct advantage. (Age limit: 38.)

### STAFF CAPTAIN "Q" (MAINTENANCE)

Duties involve formulation of policy on all UET matters, simplification and Arabisation of "Q" accounting procedures, and rationalisation of inter-service accounting. Applicants must have held a commissioned unit quartermaster's appointment and have had experience of seconded service abroad, and preference will be given to the Officer who has held a staff appointment and had previous service with Arab troops. (Age limit: 48.)

These are unaccompanied appointments (although short family visits to Oman may be possible).

Conditions of service include annual emoluments commencing at the equivalent of £10,800 (Major) and £13,800 (Captain) at the current rate of exchange (tax free); an end-of-contract gratuity in excess of £5,000; normal Service mess facilities (when at base) with air-conditioned bachelor accommodation and services free of charge; and 60 days home leave annually (usually taken in two periods of 30 days) with air passages paid.

Interviews for these appointments will be held in London in December, and interested applicants are therefore asked to write immediately for further details (and quoting the relevant reference number) to:

**Senior Personnel Officer (T/31.1)**  
**AIRWORK SERVICES LIMITED**  
BOURNEMOUTH (HURN) AIRPORT  
CHRISTCHURCH, DORSET  
BH2 6BB

## PROJECT SURVEYOR EGYPT

and Hill Overseas Limited require a Surveyor in the team currently being formed to manage a million pound construction project in Egypt. He will work in close liaison with the resident Project Engineer and will have overall responsibility for the surveying functions on the contract.

It is preferable, but not essential, that candidates should have previous overseas experience, a recognised qualification, and be in their mid 30s.

Excellent salary will be offered together with family accommodation and other overseas facilities.

Please apply in writing to—

**J. H. Allman,**  
Higgs and Hill Overseas Limited,  
Crown House, Kingston Road,  
New Malden, Surrey.

## HIGGS AND HILL

We are open to persons of either sex and this advertisement should be construed accordingly.

## D. P. MANAGER

National Bank in  
Middle East

To £20,000 p.a. TAX FREE

permanent employment or contract

+ fully furnished flat + car + schooling allowance + other important fringe benefits

OUR CLIENT has investigated the need for computers in a very thorough way, and now plans to phase the introduction of two mainframe computers during the coming 12 months.

THEY NEED an experienced computer professional and manager to control systems development and computer operations.

APPLICANTS REQUIRE good knowledge of banking systems and good experience of computer systems development and management. Candidates should also be capable of adapting to unfamiliar surroundings and have the ability to motivate.

Please Telephone or Send a CV Without Delay

**DFSC GROUP LIMITED**  
Crown House, Morden, Surrey.  
Telephone 01-840 8311

## adcasting

- 1 It is hardly surprising that Liver Bird Sandra's husband-to-be is considering emigrating to Africa after the wedding. Even the Great Age would be easier to live with than his future mother-in-law.
- 2 In competition, the Money Programme reflects men's fascination with success. Sir James Goldsmith explains how.
- 3 Tonight's Horizon repeat is Christopher Riley's sensitive account of one childless couple's attempt to overcome infertility.—I.R.R.

BBC 2		Thames		ATV	
am. You and Me. 1.00. Pebble. 2.00. Barnaby. 3.30. Y. r. 3.55. Play School. 4.00. The Second. 5.05. Blue Peter. 5.15. Nelly. 5.25. S.S. Napowid. n. Mastermind. with n. Mordred. Bradford man. Liver Birds. 12.00. Night. Keep taking the night out. 12.10. Circus of Horrors. 12.15. Antoin Dillinger. 12.20. Rembrandt. 12.25. Weather.	11.00-11.15 am. Play School. 11.15-11.30 pm. Racing from Cheltenham. 7.00 News Headlines. 7.05 Roadworthy. 7.10. The Second. 8.00 Kilvert's Diary. 8.25 Money Programme. Appetite for Knowledge. with Sir James Goldsmith. 9.00 Jack Jones. 9.45 Harrison. A Claid of Our Own. What are the chances? 10.40 Anna Karenina. 11.25 The World of Pam Ayres. 11.45 Book Programme. 12.15-12.30 am. Hugh Burden reads extracts from My Darling Timothy, by Victor Gollancz.	11.55 am. Felix the Cat. 12.00. The Love Train. 12.10 pm. Pinks. 12.30. Roger Whittaker (r). 1.00. News. 1.30. Help! 1.40. About Britain. 2.00. Money Go Round. 2.25. McK. land and Wife (r). 3.50. The Cedar Tree. 4.15. The Swiss Family Robinson (r). 4.45. Maggie. 5.15. Emeraldale Farm. 5.45. News. 6.00. Thames at 6. 6.35 Crossroads. LONDON WEEKEND 7.00 The Muppet Show with Rick Little. 7.30 The World of Pam Ayres. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 8.10. Love for Lydia. 8.30. The World of Pam Ayres. 10.00 Russell Harty. 11.30 Upsairs. Downstairs 12.30 am. Out of Town. 1.00 Epilogue.	11.55 am. Dodo. 12.00. Thames. 12.10 pm. The Love Train. 12.10 pm. Pinks. 12.30. Roger Whittaker (r). 1.00. News. 1.30. Help! 1.40. About Britain. 2.00. Money Go Round. 2.25. McK. land and Wife (r). 3.50. The Cedar Tree. 4.15. The Swiss Family Robinson (r). 4.45. Maggie. 5.15. Emeraldale Farm. 5.45. News. 6.00. Thames at 6. 6.35 Crossroads. LONDON WEEKEND 7.00 The Muppet Show with Rick Little. 7.30 The World of Pam Ayres. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 8.10. Love for Lydia. 8.30. The World of Pam Ayres. 10.00 Russell Harty. 11.30 Upsairs. Downstairs 12.30 am. Out of Town. 1.00 Epilogue.	12.00. Thames. 1.30 pm. Southern News. 1.30. About Britain. 2.00. Women Only. 2.35. The Magician, with Bill Bixby. 3.50. Thames. 5.10. Weekend. 5.24. Crossroads. 5.45. News. 6.00. Day by Day/News. 6.10. News. 6.30. News. 6.45. News. 6.50. News. 7.00. News. 7.10. News. 7.20. News. 7.30. News. 7.40. News. 7.50. News. 8.00. News. 8.10. News. 8.20. News. 8.30. News. 8.40. News. 8.50. News. 9.00. News. 9.10. News. 9.20. News. 9.30. News. 9.40. News. 9.50. News. 10.00. News. 10.10. News. 10.20. News. 10.30. News. 10.40. News. 10.50. News. 11.00. News. 11.10. News. 11.20. News. 11.30. News. 11.40. News. 11.50. News. 12.00. News. 12.10. News. 12.20. News. 12.30. News. 12.40. News. 12.50. News. 1.00. News. 1.10. News. 1.20. News. 1.30. News. 1.40. News. 1.50. News. 2.00. News. 2.10. News. 2.20. News. 2.30. News. 2.40. News. 2.50. News. 3.00. News. 3.10. News. 3.20. News. 3.30. News. 3.40. News. 3.50. News. 4.00. News. 4.10. News. 4.20. News. 4.30. News. 4.40. News. 4.50. News. 5.00. News. 5.10. News. 5.20. 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